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# THE BOOK

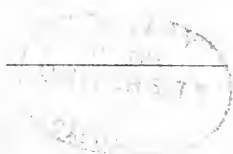
OF THE

PUBLIC LIBRARY, MUSEUMS,  
AND NATIONAL GALLERY  
OF VICTORIA.

1856-1906.

By

EDMUND LA TOUCHE ARMSTRONG, M.A., LL.B.,  
Chief Librarian.



MELBOURNE :

Printed for the Trustees of the Public Library, Museums, and  
National Gallery of Victoria,

By

FORD & SON.

1906.



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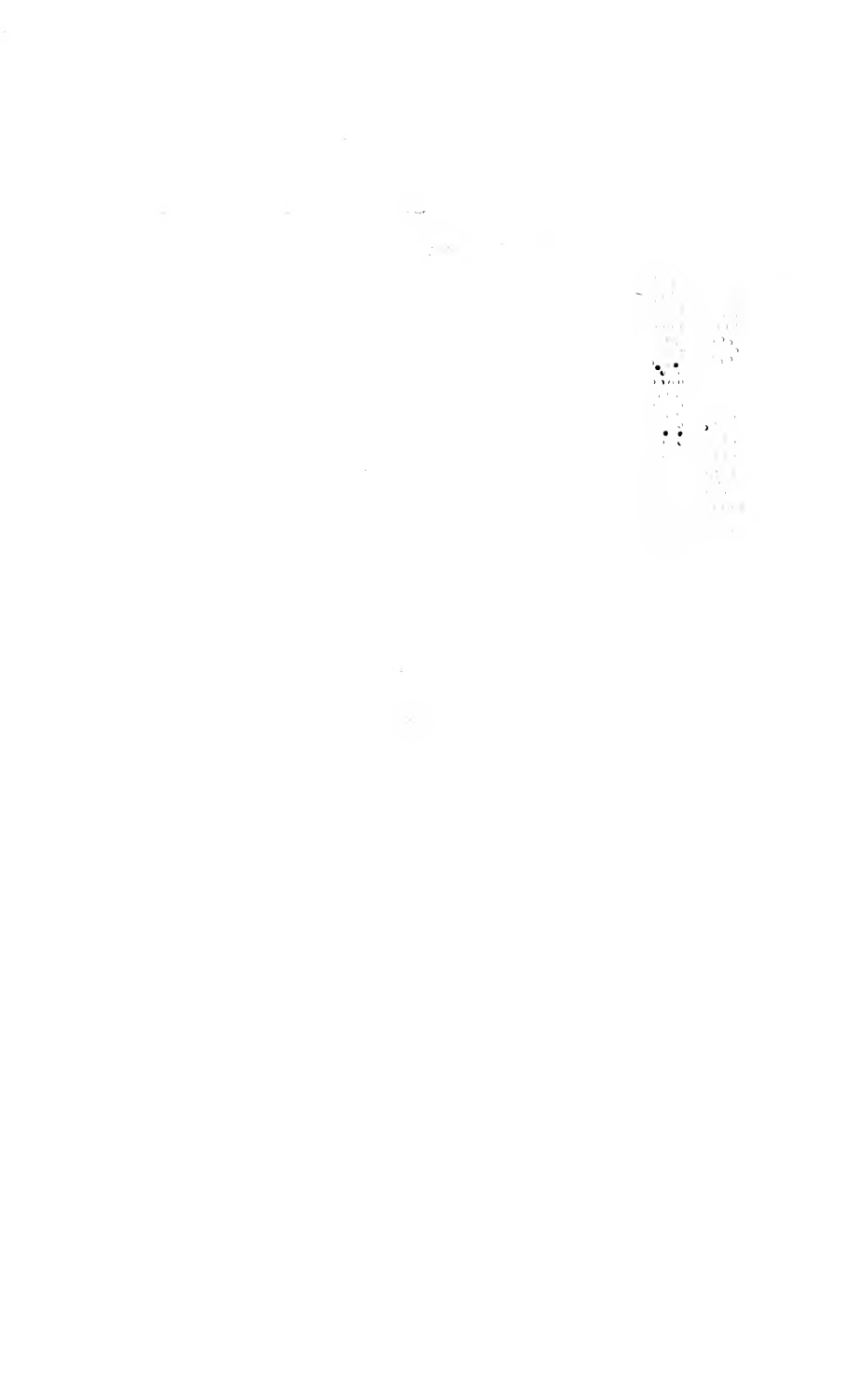


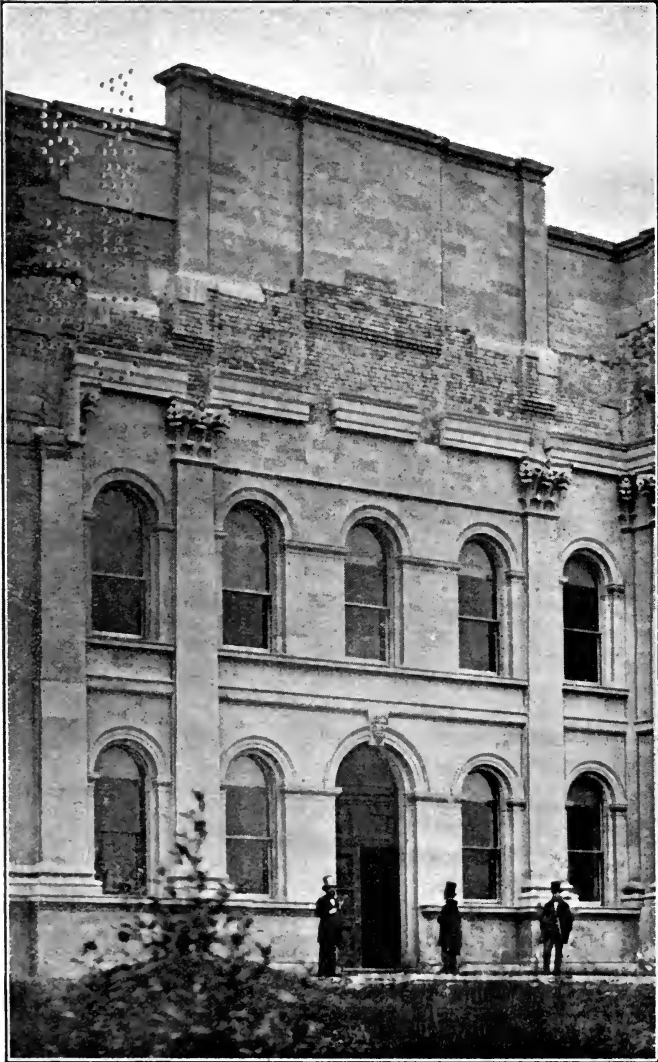




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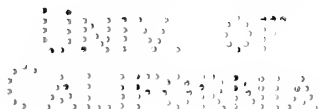
THE PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1856.

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TO THE  
LIBRARY

## PREFACE.

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The Book of the Public Library, Museums, and National Gallery of Victoria, issued on the occasion of the Jubilee in celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Library, makes no claim to be a complete history of the Institution. It is but a chronological record of the main facts connected with its progress during the first half century of its existence, and some notes on those who have served it well in the past. The Library contained about 5,000 volumes when it was opened, in 1856, and the building consisted of an Entrance Hall and a Reading Room about fifty feet square. It now contains 220,000 volumes, and the buildings connected with the Institution cover about 2 acres of land. The Reading Rooms, the Art Galleries, and the Museums are open to all reputable visitors without restriction of any kind. The Public Library was one of the first in the world to open its doors thus freely, and the Trustees have not found it necessary to alter this policy. They have never lost sight of the fact that they hold the Institution in trust for the people of Victoria, and it is hoped that some, at least, of those people will be interested in the records of an Institution to which they have ever given a generous support.

E.LAT.A.





# PUBLIC LIBRARY, MUSEUMS, AND NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA.

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1856.

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THE HONOURABLE JAMES FREDERICK PALMER.  
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## Staff of the Public Library:

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1906.

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J. BATES, *Attendant.*

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R. H. WALCOTT, F.G.S., *Curator of the Geological and Mineralogical Collections.*

F. CHAPMAN, A.L.S., *Palaeontologist.*

W. E. G. SIMONS, *Secretary.*

C. BURTON, *Taxidermist.*

J. E. CHUBB, *Taxidermist.*

T. F. MOORE, *Osteologist & Articulator.*

F. W. BAILLIE, *Assist. Taxidermist*

F. P. SPRY, *Museum Assistant.*

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F. McCUBBIN, *Master of the School of Drawing.*

T. DOBER, *Senior Attendant.*

H. HOPKINS, *Attendant.*

P. CORRIGAN „

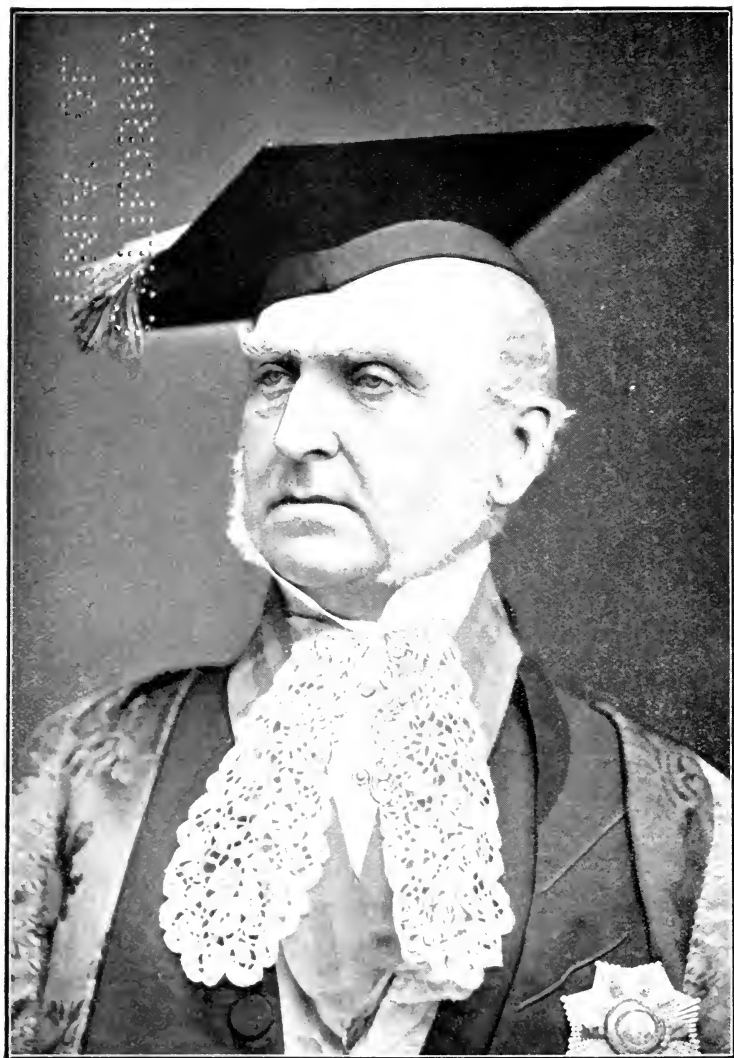
J. J. McMAHON „

W. H. HOLNESS, *Attendant.*

J. P. LITTLETON „

J. P. GANNON „





SIR REDMOND BARRY, K.C.M.G., LL.D.

THE BOOK  
OF  
THE PUBLIC LIBRARY, MUSEUMS, AND  
NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA.

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In the opening sentence of the Preface to the Catalogue of the Public Library, which was published in 1861, it is stated that the establishment of a Public Library in Victoria, supported by the State, and stamped with the characteristics of a national institution, was made the subject of early consideration by our first Governor, Mr. Latrobe. By whom the idea was first seriously suggested we shall probably never know. Mr. Hugh Culling Eardley Childers, a member of the Government of the young colony and a prominent citizen, claims to have suggested the idea to Mr. Latrobe. The Governor himself was a man of some literary taste, and one to whom the advantage of the establishment of a Public Library would appeal strongly. He placed upon the estimates a sum of £13,000 for the erection of a building and the purchase of books, and this amount was passed in the Appropriation Act, which was assented to on the 20th January, 1853. By a proclamation in the "Government Gazette" of the 20th July, in the same year, His Excellency appointed the first Trustees of the Public Library. The names are stated in the following order, viz. :—

His Honour Mr. Justice Barry,  
The Honourable William Foster Stawell,  
The Honourable James Frederick Palmer,  
Hugh Culling Eardley Childers,  
David Charteris McArthur.

Mr. Justice Barry, afterwards Sir Redmond Barry, was thus made the senior Trustee, and acted generally as Chairman of the Board. He became the recognized Head of the institu-

tion and worked zealously, judiciously, and indefatigably for its advancement during the whole of his life. The first meeting of the Trustees was held at his house in Russell Street, and was attended by Mr. Childers and the then Colonial Secretary, John Foster. No minutes were taken, and the meeting appears to have been an informal one for the discussion of various matters connected with the Library. The next meeting was held at the Judges' Library in the old Supreme Court buildings in Latrobe-street. In addition to Judge Barry, the then Attorney-General (Stawell), and D. C. McArthur attended. It was resolved, *inter alia*, that the Lieutenant-Governor be requested to convey to the Trustees, by the usual Deed of grant, the land intended as a site for the Melbourne Public Library. It was decided to remit a sum of £2,500 to London for the purchase of books, and to ask certain prominent colonists then in England to co-operate with the Colonial Agent in securing the nucleus of a collection of works suitable for a Public Library. The question of providing a building was discussed, and it was decided to offer prizes of £150 and £75 respectively to architects for the two best designs submitted in open competition.

No officials had as yet been appointed in connection with the Library, but a Mr. Charles Cumberland, a Judge's Associate, was requested to perform the duties of Secretary to the Trustees for three months for a gratuity of £25. As there were only two meetings of the Board held within the ensuing three months, it would appear that Mr. Cumberland's office was somewhat in the nature of a sinecure, although at the end of that period it was decided to retain his services until further notice.

On the 16th of January, 1854, after two postponements, the plans and designs of Mr. Joseph Reed were awarded the first prize, whilst the second fell to a Mr. Burgoyne. Some little difficulty appears to have occurred in connection with the money voted for the building, for in March a deputation of the Trustees waited upon the Governor, and enquired whether the sum of £10,000 voted in 1853 could be placed

at the disposal of the Board. His Excellency stated in reply that there were at the time no funds available for that purpose.

In July, 1854, however, the tender of Mr. James Metcalfe for the sum of £9,650 was accepted for the first portion of the Library building, and arrangements were made for fencing and trenching the land in Swanston-street, which had been set aside for the site of the Library.

On Monday, the 3rd July, 1854, the foundation stones of the University and the Public Library were laid by the Governor, Sir Charles Hotham. His Excellency, accompanied by Lady Hotham, Judge Barry, H. C. E. Childers, members of the University Council, and other prominent colonists, left the Government Offices at noon for the University. After the ceremony there, the party drove to the Public Library, arriving at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Dr. Palmer, Speaker of the Legislative Council, delivered a long address, and the Governor then laid the foundation stone. He afterwards spoke at some length on the advantages of a Public Library, especially on what he termed a working man's library. "I tell you as your friend and fellow colonist that here you will find society that will draw you away from other temptations, and I hope that the Library will contain books of all languages and descriptions, so that you may never say you are at a loss for references or information on any subject."

In the course of his address at the University, Chancellor Barry pointed out that seventeen years had scarcely elapsed since the foundation of the colony, which was then inhabited only by savages. Probably in the world's history no country had attempted to found both a University and a Public Library within a score of years of its first settlement.

1856.

After the ceremony of laying the foundation stone, there are no records of the history of the Library until the formal opening of the building in 1856. Books, however, had been purchased with the money sent to London, and on Monday, the 11th day of February, 1856, the Library was

formally opened by Major-General McArthur, Acting-Governor of Victoria. The building then opened consisted of the central portion of the Swanston-street frontage. The lower storey was merely an entrance hall, and the first floor contained a chamber 50 feet square and 32 feet high. In this chamber shelf room was provided for 8,000 volumes, and with only sufficient books to fill about half of this space, the Melbourne Public Library—the first Public Library in Australia—was opened. The Trustees, in their address to the Governor, regretted that they had not been able to obtain payment of two separate sums of £3,000, voted by the Legislative Council in 1854 and 1855. They complained also that their appeals for assistance were unacknowledged or refused. The Library contained 3,846 volumes when it was opened. The only donations of which it could boast were a copy of the “Times” newspaper for the year 1800, presented by Mr. G. M. Gallot, and eighty-four volumes presented by Mr. Latrobe, the first Governor of the Colony. Its most valuable possession was a copy of Gould’s “Birds of Australia,” which had been obtained at a cost of £140.

The first rules and regulations issued by the Trustees were of the simplest nature. It was decided that admission to the Library should be free to all persons over 14 years of age, without any letter of introduction or guaranty. The Library was to be open from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m. from the 30th September till the 1st May, and from 9 a.m. till 5 p.m. during the rest of the year. No book was to be taken out of the Library, and no person was allowed to mark or injure a book in any way. Towards the end of May, 1856, the building was lighted with gas, and the hours of opening were extended till 9 p.m.

The first man appointed in any permanent manner was Edward Washfold. He had been employed at the Supreme Court as a sort of general factotum, and on the opening of the Library in February, 1856, Judge Barry appointed him as Porter, at a salary of £150 per annum, until provision could be made for supplying him with suitable quarters, when, it would appear, his salary was to be reduced to £120 per annum. For three months Washfold carried on the



work of the Library, with the assistance of a constable at the front door.

Printed catalogues of the first books supplied had been sent out by Mr. Guillaume, the first bookseller to the Trustees, and doubtless the Judge himself superintended their arrangement on the shelves. The appointment of Washfold was questioned by the Chief Secretary of the time. He had nominated William Cleary for the position and instructed him to report himself for duty at the Library. Cleary did so, but, apparently by Judge Barry's instructions, was told that his services were not required. He returned to the Chief Secretary's office and asked for instructions. He was directed to report himself daily, and this he continued to do, with the invariable result that, according to his statement, he was informed that "there was nothing for him to do at the Library." So matters continued for some time, the Trustees, or, rather, the Judge, on their behalf, insisting that the right of appointment to the staff rested with them. On May 1st, Barry wrote to the Government asking that Washfold be paid from the 11th of February. He differed from Cleary in his view of the position, for he stated that Cleary had been drawing pay since the Library was opened, and although regularly instructed by the Trustees in the duties he was to perform, he had withdrawn himself without their leave, and since the 31st of March he had not done any duty whatever at the Library. Finally the matter was compromised by the appointment of Washfold as Porter and Cleary as Clerk, the Government apparently conceding the right of future nominations to the Trustees.

In April advertisements were inserted in the newspapers calling for applications for the position of Librarian. There were forty-eight candidates for the office, and the Trustees, "after much deliberation," reduced this number to eight. These eight candidates were instructed to wait personally on the Trustees, and five of them did so on the 5th of May. Augustus Henry Tulk was duly elected and entered on his duties nine days later. The salary provided on the estimates was £210 for ten months, and the Trustees asked that

this amount be paid to Mr. Tulk rateably for the eight remaining months of the year. Mr. Charles Cumberland apparently severed his connection with the Library on the appointment of a Librarian.

In June, 1856, the members of the Philosophical Institute asked that they might be allowed to hold meetings at the Public Library, and also that the specimens belonging to the National Museum, then in the Government Assay Office, might be moved to the Public Library instead of to the University as had been proposed. The Trustees agreed as to the desirability of establishing a Museum in connection with the Library, and promised to take charge of the specimens so soon as accommodation should be provided. They would not agree to the first proposal of the Committee of the Institute, but apparently as the result of the suggestion in regard to the Museum, they instructed the Librarian to procure plans from the architect, Mr. Reed, for building the South Wing of the front of the Library. The Natural History specimens, however, were never destined to be housed in this building, which was, later, devoted to the purposes of an Art Museum.

#### 1857.

The estimates submitted by the Trustees for the year 1857 included £5,000 for the purchase of books, £400 for the salary of the Librarian, with an allowance of £100 for rent, and salaries for a clerk and two attendants. They also asked for a sum of £30,000 for building, and the Government agreed to grant £20,000 for this purpose. In May application was made for the services of a second porter to take duty at night, and John Hodges received the appointment.

#### 1858.

In January, 1858, it was found necessary to appoint a Sub-Librarian. The position was duly advertized, and Mr. Henry Sheffield was selected from amongst forty-four candidates, and was appointed at a salary of £300 per annum.

Parliament having voted £20,000 for building, in April tenders were called for the erection of the South Wing, and a contract was made with Mr. A. Linacre to complete the building and supply fittings for £16,900.

The question of establishing Art Galleries and Museums had been considered even at this early period, and on the 16th of August, 1858, Judge Barry wrote to the Chief Secretary asking that the remainder of the block of land behind the Library, extending to Russell Street, should be set aside for the site of a Museum of Natural History, Geology, Science and Art, in immediate connection with the Library.

The result of a stocktaking, or, as it was then called by the Librarian, "an inquisition into the state of the Melbourne Public Library," in September, 1858, showed that since the opening of the Library in February, 1856, 11 books had been stolen (value £5 18s.), 41 volumes had been damaged by use, and 3 volumes had been injured by mutilation and abuse.

In October, 1858, Professor Irving wrote to the Trustees suggesting that von Guerard's picture of Fern Tree Gully, which was to have been purchased by public subscription and sent to England, should be hung in the Public Library and so form the nucleus of an Art Gallery. The Trustees declined to accept the picture, on the ground that it had not been paid for.

In November, 1858, Edward Washfold resigned, and in December George G. Brockway was appointed second attendant.

On Monday, 13th December, 1858, Sir Henry Barkly and the Trustees met at the Library to receive from the French Consul a valuable donation of books, presented by Napoleon III., Emperor of the French.

At the end of the year 1858 it was resolved by the Trustees that it would be desirable to send Mr. Tulk to England to purchase books and works of art for the Institution, but the Government declined to agree with the proposal. Mr. Guillaume, of Chester Square, London, had acted as agent for the Trustees since the founding of

the Library, but as he had become financially involved, and intended to retire from business, it was thought that the special qualifications of Mr. Tulk should be made use of to strengthen the collection. Mr. Guillaume's son undertook to supply his father's place early in 1859, and the Colonial Agent-General was instructed to order books to the value of £5,000 from Guillaume, Junior.

1859.

In March, 1859, George Hopkins was appointed as an additional attendant. In April it was resolved by the Trustees that 500 volumes should be purchased for circulation amongst the inhabitants of inland towns, and with this resolution was introduced into Australia the system of circulating cases of books, a system to be known later as that of "Travelling Libraries," and destined to become a prominent factor in Australian Libraries and to be adopted by America and other countries.

In May the Trustees met to consider the best method of dealing with a sum of £2,000 which had been voted, as the result of a suggestion from Captain (afterwards Sir Andrew) Clarke to the head of the Ministry, Mr. O'Shanassy, for the purchase of works of art in England. It was decided that a catalogue of works of art, prepared by the Trustees, should be sent to Mr. Childers, who was then in England, and that he be asked to associate himself with Captain Clarke and others in order to obtain a "judicious selection" of the works mentioned by the Trustees. The proposed "catalogue" was apparently never prepared, but a long letter was sent to Mr. Childers, asking him to act for the Trustees. In this letter he was told that it was not the intention of the Trustees to purchase original pictures or copies, however excellent or cheap. Statues, likewise, were beyond their reach, and the Committee was advised to confine its purchases to photographs and casts, medals, coins and gems, and "miscellaneous objects." The £2,000 was to be divided into four equal parts, one for the purchase of casts, one for photographs, coins, medals, and gems, one for marbles and miscellaneous objects, whilst the

fourth part was to be set aside for freight and other charges. The very careful instructions given in the letter were due to the anxiety of the Trustees that the new art department should be as successful as the Library had been. "They place much reliance upon this auxiliary element of mental cultivation as eminently calculated to introduce a new stimulus for intellectual refinement," wrote the Judge, and they "are sensitively alive to the danger of a failure, and are apprehensive lest the first impression produced upon our visitors may be apathy or dissatisfaction."

It was resolved by the Trustees that the new room on the south of the Central Hall should be opened on the 24th of May, the anniversary of the birthday of Queen Victoria, and that it should be known as the "Queen's Reading Room," a name that has long since come to be used for the whole of the first floor of the Swanston Street front of the Library. The Governor, Sir Henry Barkly, attended, and was received by Mr. Justice Barry and Sir James Palmer. He was ushered into the new reading room, where members of the Ministry, the foreign Consuls, and "a most respectable body of assembled Colonists" duly greeted him. A military review and other holiday attractions, however, probably accounted for the fact that only about 150 persons were present, and the proceedings, according to the press reports of the time, passed off with an almost monastic quietude. Mr. Justice Barry pointed out that the Library then contained over 13,000 volumes, that 2,000 additional volumes were daily expected, and it was hoped that very soon the shelves would contain 25,000 books, as a large order was being supplied from London, and the Trustees had some £5,000 at their disposal for further purchases. The new reading room was 95 feet long by 50 feet wide and 32 feet high. The labours of the Trustees, however, were not to be confined only to the benefit of the residents in the capital. "It has been deemed highly important," said Barry, "to spread abroad as widely as possible the beneficial influence happily brought into being, of which those who live at a distance are unable to partake, and thus, without impairing the resources of the Institution

as a Library of deposit and research, to increase the facilities for general literary improvement, and for the expansion of the public mind. To accomplish this object it is proposed to lend to the Mechanics' and other similar Institutions in the provincial towns a certain number of duplicate copies upon a variety of interesting subjects." The Judge also referred to the proposal to establish an art museum, and to the general advantages to be derived from the Institution. The Governor declared the new reading room open, and although he expressed himself as an advocate for economy in financial affairs, he trusted that the last vote on the estimates to be curtailed would ever be that for the extension and completion of so noble a work as the Public Library.

In July, when preparing the estimates for the following year, the Trustees were not unmindful of the Governor's remarks. They asked for a sum of £6,000 for the purchase of books, on the ground that such a sum was only equal to the votes that had lapsed in 1854 and 1855. They stated that the services of a 4th attendant were required, and they urged that £14,000 should be voted towards building the North Wing, as they urgently required quarters for the Librarian and increased accommodation for books and the works of art which were shortly expected.

1860.

For some months the Library continued to make progress quietly. In June, 1860, deputations from the Municipalities of Brighton, Boroondara, Collingwood, Prahran, Kew, and St. Kilda, were received by Mr. Justice Barry, and they agreed to receive books subject to certain regulations, which provided that the borrowing libraries should be within ten miles of the Public Library, that the public should have access to the books at certain hours, that the buildings in which the books were placed should be insured, that the borrowers should bear all expenses of taking and returning books, and that they should be liable for any loss or injury, as well as paying the expense of collecting the volumes on their return, at a cost not exceeding twenty

shillings per hundred volumes. The representatives of the borrowing libraries cheerfully accepted these conditions, but the lending of the volumes was evidently not a task to be undertaken lightly. Another meeting of the Trustees was held, at which it was resolved that the premises of the applicant Free Libraries be inspected. There is nothing to show that such inspection was carried out, but at the next meeting of the Trustees it was decided to send letters to each of these libraries, enclosing the regulations and terms upon which the books would be lent. Deputations were again to meet the Trustees on the 21st July. Even then the troubles of the would-be borrowers were not at an end, for at the meeting on that day it was merely resolved that the distribution be left to the Librarian, and that the Deputations should deliver to him on Monday, the 23rd of July, the names and addresses of the proposed guarantors. These were to be approved by the Trustees, and the Deputations were again to attend, in order that the books might be distributed to them by lot. On the 26th July it would appear that their securities were accepted, and that the first loans of books were granted on that day to Boroondara, Collingwood, and Kew.

In September, Robert Curtis, who afterwards rose to be Secretary to the Trustees, was appointed 4th attendant.

Towards the end of this year arrangements were made for fencing the land at the rear of the Library, which had been set aside for the museum site. A number of cottages, occupied as police barracks, were standing in Little Lonsdale Street, facing the Hospital, but the land between these cottages and Latrobe Street was apparently unoccupied. The Swanston Street frontage, containing nearly two acres of land, had been conveyed to the Trustees by deed of grant in February, 1858, but the deed was not handed over to the Librarian till January, 1860. As early as August, 1858, Sir Redmond Barry had written to the Chief Secretary asking that the remainder of the block bounded by Latrobe, Russell, and Little Lonsdale Streets should be reserved for a Public Museum site. This request was reiterated at intervals, and in 1860 the land was "appro-

priated," and provision made by Parliament for fencing it. The actual deed of conveyance of the land, however, was not executed till February, 1864. Towards the end of 1860 the casts, friezes, and busts for the Art Gallery were received from England, and Mr. Charles Summers, a sculptor, undertook for a sum of £50 the necessary repairs and setting up of the works, which had apparently been considerably damaged by sea water during transport.

## 1861.

Early in this year the Librarian reported that the Library contained over 22,000 volumes. Twenty-five volumes had been stolen within seven months, and more than half of these were set down as "Educational and University books." As a result of this report a notice was posted in the Library calling attention to the breach of the rule that no book was to be taken out of the Library, and stating that "should individuals be so ill-advised as to continue to break this rule, the Trustees will be reluctantly compelled to adopt additional measures for preserving the property committed to their care."

On the 24th of May, Sir Henry Barkly, the Governor of the colony, formally opened the Museum of Art on the south side of the ground floor. The collection consisted almost entirely of casts of statues and *bassi-relievi*. Sir Redmond Barry lamented that they were not exhibited in a more suitable building, and hoped that better provision would soon be made. Sir Henry Barkly sympathized with the Trustees in the want of room, and remarked in his speech on the occasion that "to cramp such a noble Institution by withholding the few thousands necessary for its completion, whilst tens of thousands are appropriated to less important or less worthy objects, must, I am confident, strike all who have the welfare of the people at heart as poor economy."

Even the small beginnings of the Art Gallery were not without effect, and in August a long letter was written to the Treasurer of the colony by a Mr. Thomas Clark, strongly advocating the establishment of a School of Art in connection with the Gallery. Mr. Clark had been head master of the



Birmingham and Nottingham Schools of Art and Design. Some years later, when the School of Design was established at the Gallery, he became the first master.

The only other incident of note during this year was the resolve of the Trustees to print a new catalogue, and a request that £500 be placed on the supplementary estimates for assistance in compiling and printing.

### 1862.

Early in the year 1862 Sir Redmond Barry left for England, to represent the colony at the great International Exhibition in London. The staff would appear to have been busily engaged on the new catalogue, and there are no records of any meeting of the Trustees from September, 1861, to March, 1862. The catalogue was finished early in the year, and in March and April orders were given for the presentation of copies to editors of colonial newspapers and magazines who had presented files of their publications, to the heads of Government Departments, and others interested in the Library. The books catalogued numbered nearly 27,000. The entries were made only under the authors' names, and no subject index was attempted.

Mr. F. G. Dalgety, a merchant, formerly resident in Melbourne, placed £100 at the disposal of the Trustees, and Mr. James Murphy, brewer, presented them with £50. The former sum was devoted to obtaining a collection of ceramic ware and the latter was spent on casts and moulds. Room was wanted, however, for a display of this kind, and it was some years before the casts were available for exhibition.

### 1863.

A number of gentlemen, "Colonists of Victoria," had formed a Committee, with Dr. Gilbee as Chairman and Mr. R. R. Woolcott as Secretary, to obtain a marble bust of Sir Redmond Barry for presentation to the Public Library. The bust was executed by Charles Summers in 1862 and formally presented to the Trustees in January, 1863.

In March the tender of Linacre for building the north portion of the Library front was accepted.

Mr. H. C. E. Childers, one of the first Trustees, having left the colony to reside in England, it was decided by his colleagues that his office should be declared vacant and a new Trustee appointed. They approached the Chief Secretary on the subject, and on the 4th of September Sir Francis Murphy, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, was duly gazetted a Trustee "in the room of H. C. E. Childers, Esquire, who had ceased to reside in the colony."

1864.

The great majority of the books supplied to the Public Library up to this time had been obtained from the Guillaumes, father and son, who had acted as London Agents for the Trustees. There was much dissatisfaction expressed from time to time during the period of their agency, and it was decided in February, 1864, acting upon information received from the Crown Agents to the Colonies, to discontinue the agency. For the encouragement of the local book-sellers it was also decided to expend for the purchase of books in Melbourne, during the year, a sum not exceeding £500.

In August leave of absence for a year was granted to the Librarian, and Mr. Sheffield was appointed acting-Librarian. Mr. Tulk reached England early in November, and was soon at work on the business of the Library. He made final arrangements in regard to some of the splendid donations obtained by Sir Redmond Barry during his visit to England in 1862. He reported against Guillaume, and recommended the Trustees to employ Bain in connection with their agency work.

The 24th December, 1864, is notable as being the opening day of the first Picture Gallery connected with the Institution. The North Wing of the building was finished, and the ground floor was filled with the casts and other works which Sir Henry Barkly had found so unsuitably housed in 1861. The first floor was partly used for the extension of the Library, but about two-thirds of it was reserved for

the temporary exhibition of the pictures which had been bought in London by Sir Charles Eastlake, as the basis of a National Gallery collection. With these pictures were shown a number of paintings by Victorian artists, which were exhibited in competition, as the Government had undertaken to buy the best picture so exhibited for £200. This exhibition and the founding of the National Gallery were due to the recommendations of a Commission on the Fine Arts, appointed in October, 1863, to inquire into the subject of the promotion of the fine arts in Victoria, and to submit a scheme for the formation and management of a Public Museum, Gallery, and School of Art. The Commissioners appointed were Sir Redmond Barry, Archibald Michie, George Frederick Verdon, Charles Gavan Duffy, William Thomas Mollison, Frederick Wilkinson, William Wilkinson Wardell, William Parkinson Wilson, James Smith, Augustus Tulk, and Charles Summers. The Secretary of the Commission was Mr. Theyre Weigall. In addition to the sum of £200 set aside for the best picture painted by an artist resident in the Australian colonies, two grants of £1,000 each were made in 1863 and 1864 by Parliament for the purchase of works of art under the advice of the Commission. The sum of £2,000 was remitted to Mr. H. C. E. Childers, in London, and Sir Charles Eastlake, President of the Royal Academy and Director of the National Gallery of England, was asked to advise as to its expenditure. He selected eleven pictures, and two small works by C. Baxter were chosen by Sir Andrew Clarke. The titles of these may be interesting as being the first purchases for the National Gallery.

The pictures were:—

A Fern Gatherer . . . . .	R. Herdman.
La Belle Yseult . . . . .	T. B. Bedford.
Watergate Bay . . . . .	J. Mogford.
Horses and Pigs . . . . .	J. F. Herring.
Sheep in Repose . . . . .	E. Tschaggeny.
Poultry Vendor . . . . .	P. van Schendel.
French Artists in a Spanish Posada .	G. J. Vibert.
Rosebud of England . . . . .	C. Baxter.

Rose of England . . . . .	C. Baxter.
Departure of the Pilgrim Fathers ..	C. W. Cope.
Bunyan in Prison . . . . .	G. F. Folingsby.
Départ du Fiancé . . . . .	G. Koller.
Italian Family (Ferry on the River Ninfa)	P. Williams.

The Australian artists submitted 43 pictures. The Commission selected for purchase for the National Gallery a painting of "The Buffalo Ranges," by Nicholas Chevalier. In addition to the pictures selected by Sir Charles Eastlake and Sir Andrew Clarke, and those shown by the Australian artists, the Exhibition contained "A Scene on the Ice at Stockholm," presented by F. Cederberg; a portrait of Dr. Maund, painted by Chevalier, and presented by Miss Maund; a "Scene on the Hudson," painted by Sonntag, and presented by J. R. Ricards. Shortly after the opening of the Exhibition the Commission purchased the "Portrait of a Lady," by an unknown artist, who was later said to be Sir William Beechey. The Exhibition was to have been opened on Christmas eve by Sir Charles Darling, but he was unable to attend. His absence, wrote Sir Redmond Barry, "shook the proceedings of the accustomed *éclat* of an inauguration, and deprived me of an opportunity of saying a few words for the information of the public." The new wing was, therefore, quietly thrown open to the public at 1 p.m., and, according to Sir Redmond, "nearly 500 visitors inspected the paintings, a goodly number, considering that it was a mail day and wet."

1865.

Early in this year a Supplemental Catalogue of the books in the Library was issued. Additions were coming in freely, partly as the result of donations obtained by Sir Redmond Barry and Mr. Tulk during their visits to Europe, and partly owing to the liberal treatment of the Library by the Government. In March, 1865, it was estimated that the Library contained 38,000 volumes. The Trustees, however, were paying very heavily for many of the books

obtained, whilst the binding, which was all done in London, was of the most costly kind. The settlement with their London agent had exhausted most of the funds in the hands of the Trustees, and Mr. Tulk, therefore, set himself to obtain as many donations as possible, and met with a most generous response from the Society of Antiquaries in London, and from many other learned Societies, as well as from the English Government Departments. The Governments of France, Belgium, Holland, and Prussia, also responded liberally to his applications for gifts for the Public Library. A scheme of obtaining books from the English booksellers in a very novel manner was also suggested by Mr. Tulk, and approved by many of the leading publishers. They were to send to the Library at Melbourne a copy of each book published. The Victorian Copyright was to be protected so soon as the receipt of a book was registered by the Agent in London of the Victorian Library. Similarly, the depositing of any book in the Melbourne Library, for transmission to the British Museum, was to give a copyright in Great Britain to the Victorian author. Unfortunately for the Melbourne Library the proposal was never carried out. Mr. Tulk also wrote to Sir Redmond Barry shortly after his arrival in England, stating that a valuable collection of art works for the foundation of the Melbourne Museum might be obtained at the Villa Albani sale in Italy. He suggested that possibly the Victorian Government might vote £20,000 for the purpose. Before the suggestion reached the Trustees, however, the order had gone forth to cut down expenses, and even the vote for the purchase of books had suffered severely. Under the circumstances, Sir Redmond Barry decided not to approach the Government on the matter. His answer on this point to the Librarian is worth quoting. "It is painful to destroy the delightful vision which the intended dispersion of these rarities afforded you. But, my dear Sir, one honourable member proposes that fifty thousand pounds, in addition to that placed on the estimates for the purpose, shall be spent this year on 'Roads and Bridges,' and carries his point. Another honourable member proposes that every member

in the Assembly is to be paid three hundred pounds per annum, and every member of the Council as much as is pleasing to him. Fortifications, iron-clad ships, guns, and munitions of war will absorb as much as Panic may suggest. Although I wrote a most pathetic appeal to the Chief Secretary to place an additional sum on the estimates simply to get us out of debt, the answer was sharp, short, and decisive, 'It cannot be done.' I was obliged to say that we should be compelled to decline to receive presents in future, in order to keep the current literature of the day *au niveau*. To this no reply was offered." On Mr. Tulk's return to the colony he presented a report of his doings to the Trustees, and it was resolved "That the Report of the Librarian be received, and that an entry of its having been read be made, and also that the high sense of the appreciation of the Trustees of the indefatigable activity and successful labours of the Librarian in behalf of the Institution, while visiting Europe on his private affairs, be recorded."

The final Report of the "Commission on the Fine Arts" was presented to Parliament during the year. The chief recommendations were, in brief:—

1. That whilst original pictures should form the basis and chief part of the National Collection, a limited number of copies of pictures in European National Collections should be obtained.
2. That the selection of pictures in future should proceed upon an organised system, capable of extension in various directions, so as to illustrate history, both sacred and secular, poetry, domestic life, landscape, portraiture, and those subjects more immediately required for instruction in drawing.
3. That a suitable gallery should be built upon the reserve set apart by the Government for the Public Library and Museums.
4. That the establishments of the Public Library, the Galleries, and Schools of Art, the Museum of Natural History, with the allied economic

branches relating to science, art, and manufactures, should be united, and form an institution to be called the Public Museum.

5. That the property in, and the custody of, the Public Museum should be vested in fifteen Trustees.
6. That admission to the Galleries and Schools should be free to all, and that they be open in the evenings.
7. That facilities should be afforded for holding annually an Exhibition of Art in Melbourne.

The Report was considered by the Trustees, and they reported to the Chief Secretary that they deemed themselves only called upon to express an opinion on the recommendation as to the formation and government of the Institution. They concurred in the proposal that the Public Library, the Galleries, and Schools of Art, the Museum of Natural History, and the allied economic branches relating to science, art, and manufactures, should be united and form one Institution. They approved of the suggestion that all buildings for this purpose be on the site of the Public Library, and be vested by Act of Parliament in fifteen Trustees. They recommended that certain members of the governing body should be Trustees *ex officio*, viz., the Chief Justice, the Treasurer, the Minister of Mines, the President of the Council, the Speaker of the House of Assembly, the Chancellor of the University, and the President of the Royal Society. They objected to the title "Public Museum," and suggested "The Public Library and Museum."

1866.

During the year 1865 consideration was given to the advisability of holding an Intercolonial Exhibition, and in October of that year a Commission was appointed to carry out the proposal. Two exhibitions had previously been held in the colony, one in 1854 and one in 1861. The building used on these occasions was on the site now occupied by the Mint. This building, however, was not considered suitable for the purposes of the new exhibition, and it was arranged to erect buildings on the Public Library site, such

buildings to be the property of the Trustees, and to be used by them for purposes connected with the Institution, so soon as the Exhibition closed. Early in 1866 Mr. Reed, the architect to the Trustees, submitted plans and estimates for the new buildings. These included a North Wing in Latrobe Street, now used as a drawing school, a great hall, 220 feet long and 82 feet in breadth, used later for a Technological Museum, and a South Wing on the site now occupied by the Verdon Gallery. The Rotunda was also built at this time, for the use of the Commissioners. All these buildings were of a temporary nature, although the foundations, and, in some cases, the lower walls, were meant to be permanent. In addition to the buildings mentioned, a large iron annexe was erected at the east of the Great Hall, on portion of the site now occupied by the Stawell Gallery and the National Museum. The Exhibition was opened on the 23rd of October, 1866, by the Governor, Sir J. H. T. Manners-Sutton, and remained open till the 23rd February, 1867. The ground floor of the South Wing was set aside for the fine art exhibits, the basement being used for refreshment rooms and the exhibition of preserved meats, colonial wines, etc.

In September of this year the pictures were removed from the north portion of the Reading Room, and in the following month they were hung in the Picture Gallery connected with the Exhibition, on the present site of the Verdon Gallery.

1867.

The Travelling Library system, until this year, had been confined to loans to Institutions within ten miles of Melbourne. It was decided to abolish this limit, and to lend cases of books to country libraries.

The Trustees wrote to the Chief Secretary urging that an Instructor be appointed for the School of Painting and Design, which they proposed to establish in connection with the Art Museum. It was suggested that such an Instructor should receive a salary of £400 per annum and fees. No appointment was made, however, and the matter remained in abeyance.



Mr. A. Taddy Thomson, a retired Victorian squatter, residing in England, had succeeded Sir Charles Eastlake as an adviser to the Trustees on the purchase of works of art. A picture selected by him—Weber's "First Snow in the Tyrolean Alps," and "Rachel Going to the Well," a replica painted on commission by F. Goodall, were received during the year. In July Mr. Verdon brought in a Bill to provide for the incorporation of the Public Library and Museum. It passed the Lower House, but had not finally been dealt with by the Legislative Council when a dissolution took place over the Constitutional struggle between the two houses of Parliament.

1868.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, who was visiting Australia, was formally received by the Trustees on Friday, the 3rd of January, the day before his departure from the colony, and was conducted over the Library and the Museum. On the previous day a very lengthy letter had been sent to him by Sir Redmond Barry, through the Chief Secretary, giving an account of the foundation and progress of the Library. On the 4th of March a further memento of his visit was sent by the Trustees, in the shape of some portly volumes of newspaper cuttings, compiled by Mr. Tulk, to form an historical narrative of his visit to Australia. A duplicate of this compilation was made for the Public Library. It was continued to a later date, and contains a large number of cuttings relating to the attempted assassination of the Duke in Sydney, collected by Mr. Tulk under command of His Excellency Sir J. H. T. Manners-Sutton.

The first rules for the School of Arts were drawn up by the Trustees in January. As there was no instructor they related mainly to regulations for obtaining permits to copy pictures and casts. Applicants had to sign the students' book on every day of attendance. The Students were asked by the Trustees whether they would be willing to pay for tuition, and if so, how much. Nine replied, stating that they were willing to pay £5 each for the half-

year. The other Students stated that they were not in a position to pay. In September Mr. Eugene von Guerard was offered the temporary position of Drawing Master, to be paid by the Students, without any responsibility on the part of the Trustees. He declined the appointment on such terms, and no further action was then taken.

Applications were made during the year for the use of the "Great Hall," as the main Exhibition Building was called, for a concert for the Benevolent Asylum, and for a dinner to the Sladen Ministry, but both requests were refused by the Trustees, on the ground that the objects were foreign to those for which the building had been confided to their charge.

Webb's picture of Rotterdam, selected by Mr. A. Taddy Thomson, was received towards the end of the year. It was much damaged owing to the careless packing, and under the advice of Mr. von Guerard was handed over to Mr. Hiram W. Paterson for some necessary restoring. A further sum of £1,000 was sent to Mr. Thomson for the purchase of pictures, and £200 was transmitted for expenditure by Mr. Charles Summers, the sculptor, who was then travelling in Europe. Mr. Abraham Linacre, a contractor for some of the Library Buildings, presented £100 to the Trustees for the purchase of a picture, but he afterwards agreed that the money should be spent on Architectural Works. A marble bust of Gustavus Vaughan Brooke, the actor, was presented to the Trustees by the subscribers to his memorial fund, inaugurated by the Press of Victoria.

1869.

A Technological Commission, for the purpose of promoting technological and industrial instruction, was appointed in January, 1869, with the Honourable Samuel Bindon as Chairman. In the Commissioners' Reports, in 1869 and later, they recommended the establishment of Schools of Design and also of a Technological and Industrial Museum, and urged that it was the intention of Parliament that the Exhibition Building was to be used partly for this purpose. As early as July, 1867, a Provisional Com-

mittee of the proposed Museum of Industry and Art had been appointed to take charge of any contributions or exhibits which might be presented to the Museum. The Technological Commission continued to urge the advisability of establishing the Museum, and by its recommendations probably assisted in having a further Bill introduced for the incorporation and government of the Library, Museums, and Gallery. The Act of Incorporation, however, was not passed until the end of the year 1869. Meantime, in accordance with a recommendation of the Fine Arts Commission, the Trustees were busy with the proposal to hold an "Exhibition of Works of Art, Art Treasures, and Ornamental and Decorative Art." Advertisements were inserted in the Press asking for loans of pictures and other objects suitable for such an exhibition, which was to be held in the Great Hall of the Public Library. The hanging arrangements were under the supervision of Mr. Hiram Paterson, who managed to have everything in readiness for a formal opening by the Governor, Sir H. J. Manners-Sutton, on the 29th March. It was remarked in the Press notices of the ceremony that there was in the room not a single Cabinet Minister nor high official, Parliament being represented by the Speaker and one member only. The Exhibition remained open until the 30th June. After paying all expenses and giving a donation of £50 to the Melbourne Hospital, and a similar amount to the Benevolent Asylum, the Trustees were able to invest a sum of £450, which became the nucleus of the Travelling Scholarship Fund in connection with the Art Gallery. It was estimated that nearly 70,000 visits were paid to the Exhibition. There were 1,406 exhibitors, of whom more than 700 lent oil paintings.

Early in the year the Trustees received a copy of Van Dyck's "Marriage of St. Catherine," selected by A. Taddy Thomson. The copy is supposed to have been made by one of Van Dyck's pupils, but it did not entirely meet with the approval of the Trustees, for Mr. Paterson was instructed before hanging it to reduce the size of the picture to its original state, and he was authorized "to diminish the

unnatural deformity arising from bad drawing of the infant's cheek."

The Melbourne Town Hall was being built at this time, and, as there were very few large rooms in the city, the Great Hall at the Library was in much demand for social functions, but the Trustees refused to grant its use, on the ground that such purposes were foreign to those for which they held it in trust. The Government was approached on the matter, and the Trustees, on representations made by the Chief Secretary, relented so far as to allow the Hall to be used by the Mayor of Melbourne for a ball given in honour of the Duke of Edinburgh, and also for balls given by the Committee of the Sailor's Home and the Alfred Hospital. It was also used by the Governor for a similar festivity, for there is a record that in August the Clerk and two Library Attendants were ordered to apologize to His Excellency for misconduct in remaining in the supper room after they had been plainly told by the butler that they had no right to be there.

The Trustees had not lost sight of the recommendations of the Fine Arts Commission, and were evidently preparing for the extension of the Institution. In March they decided to advertize for a Drawing Master, but apparently no definite action was taken. In May they ordered that a letter be written to the Minister of Mines accepting his offer to place a collection of minerals under the protection of the Trustees, with a proviso that the Minister should find an officer, who would be subject to the Trustees, but whose duty would be to look after the collection. At the end of the previous year they had suggested that as the Government contemplated discontinuing the Geological Survey, it would be advisable to consider the transfer of the apparatus of the Laboratory of the Survey to the Museum, together with the services of Mr. J. Cosmo Newbery, who had been employed as Chemical Analyst. They were also keeping in view the suggested removal of the National Museum, and in July, 1869, informed the Chief Secretary that they were ready to receive the collections of that Department.

In December the tender of John Beardall for the erection of the portico was accepted. It was to be built of Tasmanian freestone, and the amount of the tender was £5,204.

In November the Copyright Act was passed, under which the Library was entitled to receive a copy of every book, newspaper, map, etc., published in the colony.

On the 29th December an Act was passed to provide for the incorporation and government of the Public Library, Museums, and National Gallery of Victoria. This Act provided that for the government of the Institution there should be not less than fifteen Trustees, and that the existing Trustees of the Public Library were to be appointed on the new corporation. The real and personal property of the Institution was vested in the Trustees, who were given power to make rules and regulations for the management of the affairs of the corporation, such rules to be approved by the Governor-in-Council, and, if approved, to be duly gazetted.

1870.

On the 4th February the following were gazetted as Trustees of the Public Library, Museums, and National Gallery, viz. :—Sir W. F. Stawell, Sir Redmond Barry, Sir James F. Palmer, Sir Francis Murphy, David C. MacArthur, Hon. T. H. Fellows, Hon. John O'Shanassy, Hon. Charles Gavan Duffy, Hon. James McCulloch, Hon. Archibald Michie, Hon. James Goodall Francis, Hon. Thomas Turner a'Beckett, Hon. Samuel Henry Bindon, Hon. John A. MacPherson, Charles E. Bright, Rev. J. I. Bleasdale, John Badcock, Eliezer Montefiore. The first meeting of the new Board was held in the Executive Council Chambers on the 7th February, the Hon. J. A. MacPherson, Chief Secretary, presiding. A committee of seven members was appointed to frame rules and regulations. These rules and regulations were finally accepted at a meeting held on the 4th March. They provided for the appointment of five sectional committees for the management of—

1. The Library.
2. The National Gallery.

3. The Technological Collection.
4. The National Museum and Scientific Collections.
5. Finance.

Each committee was to have control and management of the business of its section, subject to the approval of the general body of the Trustees, who had power to dissolve any committee and appoint another in its place. It was decided to elect annually a President and a Vice-President of the Trustees. At a meeting held on the 1st April, Sir Redmond Barry was unanimously elected President, and the Hon. Archibald Michie, Vice-President. Prior to the incorporation, Sir Redmond Barry, though recognised as the Chief Trustee, and generally acting as Chairman, always signed official documents merely as "One of the Trustees" of the Public Library. The new body of Trustees was apparently content to carry on the policy of complete freedom in the use of the Library, which had always been one of its marked characteristics. They considered that the abstraction and destruction of books was not sufficient to demand any alteration in policy, as in 13 years the total number of volumes stolen was only 237. Many of these were recovered, some being obtained on conviction of the thieves, whilst others were returned to the Library quietly by the persons who stole them, or by their friends, and thus the total was reduced to 182 small volumes, mostly cheap educational books and works of fiction.

The establishment of the Institution on a broader foundation enabled the Trustees to get certain appointments made, and in June Marcus Clarke was appointed Clerk to the Trustees, an office which, a few months later, was altered to Secretary to the Trustees. About the same time Eugene von Guerard was appointed Master in the School of Painting, the final appointment resting between him and Louis Buvelot, and Thomas Clark was appointed Master in the School of Design. At this time there were six students in the Painting School and thirty-five in the School of Design. The work of both classes was carried on in the hall at the north of the building, which is still used as a drawing school.

Letters were sent by the National Gallery Committee to the Agent-General (Mr. Verdon), Mr. Herbert, R.A., John Ruskin, John Forster, and Mr. Cashel Hoey, asking them to assist Mr. Thomson in choosing works of art for the Gallery. The building of the new Picture Gallery was strongly urged by the National Gallery Committee, one of the reasons being the injury done to the pictures in the building in Little Lonsdale Street by the smoke from the chimneys of the Melbourne Hospital.

During the year the Victorian Academy of Art held an exhibition in the "carriage annexe," as the temporary iron building on the site of the main hall of the present Natural History Museum was known.

The Committee of the Industrial and Technological Museum secured the appointment of J. Cosmo Newbery, B.Sc., as Scientific Superintendent of the Museum, and Mr. G. H. F. Ulrich, F.G.S., as Lecturer in Mineralogy and Mining, and Curator of the Mineral Collections. The Rotunda was fitted up as a lecture room, and temporary laboratories were established in the old police sheds at the rear of the building. In addition to a series of lectures by Mr. Newbery and Mr. Ulrich, addresses were delivered by Professors McCoy, Wilson, and Halford, Dr. von Mueller, Mr. R. L. J. Ellery, and Mr. George Foord. The phyto-logical specimens were classified and arranged by Dr. von Mueller.

As the National Museum, containing the Natural History collections and some other exhibits, did not come under the control of the Trustees until this year, it may be well to give a brief sketch of its establishment and progress. The idea of forming such a Museum was originated by Captain Clarke, of the Royal Engineers, afterwards Sir Andrew Clarke, during the period in which he held office as Surveyor-General in Victoria. In April, 1854, William Blandowski was appointed Zoologist, and he had charge of a small Museum then housed in the Crown Lands Office in Latrobe Street. George Fulker was appointed Taxidermist in the same year, and in 1857 Henry Sowerby was appointed Clerk and Draughtsman. Great interest was taken in the

Museum by the Philosophical Society of Victoria, a society which at a later period amalgamated with the Victorian Institute, and became the forerunner of the present Royal Society. In 1855 Sir Charles Hotham, who was not impressed with the advantages of a museum to the public, was disposed, in a spirit of economy, to sacrifice the collections, and the Philosophical Society proposed to petition the Legislative Council in such an event to place it under the custody of the Society, whose members would do all they could "to keep up that only national institute existing." Such a necessity, however, did not arise. Professor McCoy, who, in addition to his duties at the University, had been appointed Palæontologist in the Geological Surveyor's office in May, 1856, came forward with a proposal that the Museum should be temporarily housed in some rooms above the lecture rooms at the University. This proposal did not meet the views of the Philosophical Institute, as the amalgamated society was called, and the members presented a memorial to the Acting Governor in June, 1856, praying that room might be found for the Museum in the Public Library. It was also the wish of the Institute that the control of the Museum should be vested in its members. The Legislature had decided that the Museum should be moved to the University, but the Institute arranged for a public meeting in the Mechanics' Institute on the 26th July to protest against such removal, and to endeavour to have the Museum established in a more central part of the city. Resolutions in favour of retaining the Museum in the city were carried almost unanimously, and a deputation was appointed to draw up a memorial to the Governor, and to take such further steps as the members might think necessary. Meantime the advocates for removal to the University had not been idle, and on the 19th August the Museum Committee had to report to the members of the Institute "that while the arrangements for convening the public meeting on the subject were pending, the collections were hastily removed from the Assay Buildings to the University, where they at present remain." The only source of congratulation left to the Committee of the Institute was



that public attention had been directed to the subject, and that a distinct statement had been elicited from the Government, that the removal to the University was merely a temporary expedient. The exhibits, however, remained at the Museum for many years. In January, 1858, Professor McCoy was formally appointed Director. In 1862 the first contract was let for a new Museum Building at the rear of the University, and in that year the offices were built and some of the foundations of the main building were laid.

In 1863 grants to the amount of £7,000 in all were voted for erecting portion of the new building at the rear of the University, and in March, 1864, the exhibits were removed from these temporary premises, on the north-west side of the University Quadrangle, to this building. Professor McCoy retained the sole control, as an officer of the Chief Secretary's Department, until the Museum was brought under the direction of the Public Library Trustees by the Act of 1869. Professor McCoy's idea was not to have merely a Museum of Natural History connected with the University, for, whilst the University Council gave the site of the Museum on condition that the building should not be used for any other purpose, it was agreed that the University should not, in any way, interfere with its management. The collection was to form a "National Museum of Natural History, Geology, and Oeconomic Geology, applied to mining, agriculture, and other arts." The Geological Survey had a laboratory in connection with the Museum, and exhibits collected by the Department of Mines and the Department of Agriculture were eagerly seized for the Museum at the University by its energetic Director. A most excellent collection had been got together by Professor McCoy when the Trustees were given control, and when they wished to transfer the mining and agricultural exhibits to the Technological Museum it was not unnatural that, as a "collector," he should grudge any such transfer, even to a kindred establishment, such as the newly-established Industrial and Technological Museum. The Trustees, however, had decided that the National Museum should be entirely devoted to the illustration of

Natural History, and accordingly they insisted that the mining and agricultural exhibits should be transferred to the Industrial Museum. After some months the Director had to consent, although he still managed to retain some of his most favoured mining exhibits at the University.

1871.

The portico was finished in 1870, and early in the following year turnstiles were placed inside the doors, and also at the entrance to the Library, so as to record the number of visits to both sections of the Institution. Prior to this, visitors to the Library had been compelled to register their names in a book kept for the purpose.

Sir James Palmer, one of the original Trustees, died on the 23rd of April. The Hon. W. H. F. Mitchell and Professor Martin Howy Irving were appointed Trustees, the latter in place of Sir James Palmer. Mr. E. L. Montefiore left Victoria to reside in New South Wales, and resigned his office as Trustee early in 1871.

A revision of the rules was made during the year, the Finance Committee being abolished, and a Building and General Committee appointed. Up to this time the President had signed cheques and financial documents, but a new office of Treasurer was created under the amended rules, though apparently not filled till the following year.

In April Mr. Bindon moved that the Industrial Museum and the National Gallery be open to the public on Sundays, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Consideration of the matter was postponed from time to time, but no definite action was taken.

The Lectures in the Museum were continued, and the Committee expressed a hope that they would be able to establish classes in Mathematics, Mechanics, Chemistry, Mineralogy and Metallurgy, Mechanical Drawing, Modelling and Model Making, and Telegraphy.

It was proposed to hold a series of annual international exhibitions in London from 1872 to 1880, and the Trustees were asked by the Government to take measures for the proper representation of the products and manufactures of

the colony, a duty which was accordingly carried out by the Committee of the Industrial Museum.

Five oil paintings were obtained for the collection, of which two, "Memoirs of the First Palm Sunday," by Edith Courtauld, and "Druidical Monuments," by Hering, chosen by Mr. Herbert, were not actually received till the beginning of 1872. John Ruskin selected three water colours, viz., "Cottage Scenery," by T. J. Watson, "Haunt of Ancient Peace," by Constance Phillott, and "Near Mannaton, Devon," by W. Morrish. The Committee continued to urge the erection of a new Picture Gallery, and still complained that the Hospital authorities, notwithstanding frequent remonstrances, had taken no steps to remedy the nuisance caused by the smoke from the chimneys in Little Lonsdale Street.

In August of this year, when a vote for the Public Library was under consideration, Mr. W. M. K. Vale stated in Parliament that the Library Building had been defaced by having placed over its pediment the coat of arms of a private individual, and suggested that it be removed. The coat of arms was that of Sir Redmond Barry, who had caused it to be placed over the main entrance to the Library. On inquiry by the Minister of Public Works it was found that inside the portico were five other coats of arms. These were placed at the back of the structure near the ceiling. Mr. Vale, when this was pointed out, suggested that no money should be paid out of the votes until all these armorial bearings were removed. When the matter was brought under the notice of Sir Redmond Barry he wrote a long letter to the Minister of Public Works. He "was at a loss "to know the grounds of objection taken to the fact that "the armorial bearings of the six original Trustees of the "Melbourne Public Library had been placed under the "ceiling of the portico. The practice of allowing persons "to whom had been confided the honour of erecting public "buildings to connect their names with them, had been "sanctioned from a remote antiquity in every part of the "civilised world. In Rome the officer charged with the "conduct of public works was not only permitted to enjoy

“the distinction of placing his emblem on a conspicuous part  
 “of a building which he had erected, but, in order to perpe-  
 “tuate the recollection of his services in what has proved a  
 “still more durable shape, the sum voted by the Senate was  
 “paid to him in bullion at the Treasury, and he was allowed  
 “to coin it at the mint with his effigy on the obverse, and  
 “the elevation of the building or the emblem of his family  
 “on the reverse of the piece of money. . . Agrippa, a  
 “plebeian of mean extraction, distinguished by his military  
 “achievements and his ability in the public service, was  
 “allowed to place his name on the frieze of the pediment of  
 “the Pantheon, where it has remained unblemished for  
 “nineteen centuries. . . It is not to be imagined that  
 “the Trustees with whom I have worked so long, who have  
 “received on so many occasions assurances of confidence in  
 “their administration of that character which makes respon-  
 “sibility light and sweetens labour, it is not to be conceived,  
 “I say, that they were capable of intentionally doing any  
 “act calculated to give umbrage to public sentiment. . .  
 “I conclude by saying that I will not readily permit myself  
 “to believe that it is the desire of the Ministry to which you  
 “have the honour to belong to affront the Trustees who are  
 “in this country, or to offer such an indignity to those  
 “persons who are absent and unable to address themselves  
 “to you, as well as to the memory of a faithful, honourable,  
 “and respected public servant now no more. If such be the  
 “determination you will adopt such measures as may be  
 “thought proper.” The Trustees approved of Sir Red-  
 mond’s letter, and declined to make any suggestions when  
 the matter came before them as a body. Apparently no  
 further action was taken, and the escutcheons, unobtrusive  
 and unnoticed, remain as interesting little mementos of the  
 first Governors of the Institution.

1872.

In this year several new Trustees were appointed, viz.,  
 Sir George Verdon, the Hon. Charles MacMahon, Speaker  
 of the Legislative Assembly, the Hon. W. M. K. Vale, and  
 Dr. Dobson. The revised rules, which provided, *inter alia*,

for the appointment of an honorary treasurer on the Trust, were sent to the Governor for approval. On the 5th of April the Hon. J. G. Francis was elected Treasurer, but shortly afterwards became Chief Secretary, and declined to act. Sir George Verdon was, therefore, elected in August, but resigned on the 4th of October, on the ground that he was leaving Melbourne for two months, and expected to be constantly absent. On the same day Mr. Charles Edward Bright was elected, and practically became the first Treasurer, although he held office only for a few months.

The Great Hall was again in use during the latter half of the year and until February, 1873, for Exhibition purposes outside the usual scope of the Institution. The Commissioners of the International Exhibition for 1872-73 asked that space might be provided for a preliminary exhibition of the articles which were to be forwarded to London. A deputation of the Trustees and the Commissioners waited upon the Government, and suggested that money might be provided for a permanent Exhibition Building, and £3,000 was actually voted, but not spent for the purpose. The Great Hall, the annexe at the rear, and some outbuildings were, however, placed at the disposal of the Exhibition Commissioners.

An agreement was made with Mr. Herbert for obtaining a replica of his fresco, "Moses bringing down the tables of the Law," for the sum of £1,700. The picture was to be of the same size as the original work in the House of Lords, and was to be completed in 1874. The National Gallery Committee at the time expressed pleasure that Australia would thus secure a faithful copy, from the pencil of the master who produced it, of one of the most powerful examples of the modern English school of art.

1873.

Mr. C. E. Bright resigned the office of Treasurer at the beginning of this year, in consequence of his departure for Europe, and the Hon. John Alexander MacPherson was appointed in his place. Mr. Michie was appointed Agent-General for Victoria, and in consequence of his absence from

the colony, Mr. David Charteris McArthur was, in April, elected Vice-President.

The erection of iron gates at the main entrance to the grounds was completed at a cost of over £700, but the contrast between the new gates and the existing paling fence was so great that the Trustees felt it necessary to appeal for funds to erect the permanent iron fencing.

The Trustees seriously considered a proposal to convert the Great Hall into a Picture Gallery, and even went so far as to authorize the Superintendent to place the Industrial Museum exhibits in the Entrance Hall, Rotunda, and Sculpture Galleries. Pending the conversion of the Hall into a Picture Gallery, permission was given to the Governor, Sir George Bowen, to use it for a ball room on the 30th of July. On further consideration it was decided not to attempt to use the Hall for the exhibition of pictures, and arrangements were made for the erection of a new Picture Gallery. Parliament voted £5,000 for the purpose, and a tender was accepted for building the hall, now known as the McArthur Gallery, at a cost of £7,000.

The most noticeable picture received at the Gallery during the year was Layraud's "Italian Brigands." It was selected by J. R. Herbert, R.A., and in the opinion of the National Gallery Committee proved an exceedingly attractive addition, and excited more interest and drew larger attendances than any previous purchase.

On the 1st of September Augustus Henry Tulk, the first Librarian, died. The Trustees recorded their deep sense of regret at the loss of an officer who for upwards of seventeen years had filled the office with ability, efficiency, and great zeal, and who, in addition to his discharge of the duties of Librarian, acted for several years with much judgment and taste in the formation of the Museum of Art. The death of the Librarian led to several changes on the staff. Henry Sheffield was promoted to the Librarianship, and Marcus Clarke succeeded him as Sub-Librarian. Robert Curtis, Assistant in the Library, was appointed to the combined offices of Clerk, or Secretary to the Trustees, and Accountant. The latter office had become vacant by the insolvency

of William Cleary, as such an act at that time incurred forfeiture of a position in the Government service.

The question of protecting the buildings and contents from danger by fire was frequently considered by the Trustees during the year. Extra hydrants were erected, and a sum of £400 was expended in precautions against loss by fire.

The Lecture Room in the Rotunda was removed to the eastern end of the Annexe, and the Library Committee arranged that the Rotunda should be used for a Newspaper Room and a Map Room.

#### 1874.

The Hon. Archibald Michie and Mr. John Badcock, manager of the Bank of New South Wales, resigned office as Trustees, and the Hon. John MacGregor and the Hon. Edward Langton were appointed in their stead.

Mr. MacGregor presented the Library with a copy of the "Encyclopédie Méthodique," consisting of 198 volumes. Another donation of note during the year was the collection of original papers connected with the Burke and Wills Exploring expedition and the relief expedition.

The building of the new Picture Gallery was finished, but the walls were not sufficiently dry to allow the pictures to be hung, and as the erection of a temporary passage was required to connect it with the old Gallery of Art, no attempt was made to open it during the year.

#### 1875.

The number of students attending the painting and drawing classes had increased to 41 in the former school and 152 in the latter. An exhibition of students' work was held in the Annexe at the beginning of the year. The artists appointed to judge the work reported favourably on the school of painting, notwithstanding that the seven best pictures were all copies, but they criticized somewhat unfavourably the work in the school of design. The Master replied to these criticisms that he was hampered by want of models and drawings, and by small and ill-furnished class

rooms, defects which the Trustees undertook to remedy as far as possible.

During the year an exhibition of the various objects which it was proposed should be sent by the colonies to the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition of 1876 was held at the Public Library Buildings. The old "carriage annexe" of the first exhibition was either rebuilt or so much enlarged and improved as to be practically a new building, and the Great Hall, the Rotunda, the north and south court yards, and the Latrobe Street wing were all handed over for the time being for the purposes of the exhibition, which was opened on the 2nd of September, and kept open until the 16th of November. The new buildings erected for the exhibition at the back of the Library at a cost of some £2,000 were, by arrangement, handed over to the Trustees when the exhibition closed, and were sub-divided, so as to form a Lecture Room capable of seating about 350 people, a Chemical Laboratory, a Metallurgical Laboratory, a class room, and offices.

The pictures were removed from the temporary gallery on the south side of the Library and hung in the new Picture Gallery, which was opened to the public on the Queen's Birthday, the 24th of May. The old gallery was used for showing water colour drawings, engravings, loan pictures, curiosities, etc., and during the time of the exhibition it contained a portion of the mineral collection belonging to the Technological Museum. The building of the new Picture Gallery and the Exhibition Annexe had caused the removal of the last of the old police buildings, except two cottages occupied by attendants in the Institution, one situated in Little Lonsdale Street, at the east side of the old Art Gallery, and one in Russell Street, about the site of the entrance to the new National Museum.

The gentlemen acting for the Trustees in the purchase of pictures, viz., the Agent-General (Sir Archibald Michie), John Ruskin, J. R. Herbert, R.A., Cashel Hoey, and the members of the Agent-General's Board of Advice, found a difficulty in carrying out their duty. Mr. Taddy Thomson and Mr. Inglis, and at a later date Sir Charles Gavan



Duffy, declined to act with the Committee as constituted. The Agent-General wrote in very strong terms as to the difficulty of getting advice from gentlemen living widely apart, especially where prompt action was required. The National Gallery Committee therefore decided to revert to the system of trusting to one adviser, and asked Mr. Alfred Taddy Thomson whether he would act in the capacity, as he had done formerly. He agreed to do so, and continued to act for the Trustees for some years.

1876.

On the 17th of January Sir Redmond Barry offered to resign his position as President, on account of his contemplated visit to Europe. He was requested by the Trustees to retain the office, and he consented to do so, at the same time undertaking to do all he could for the Institution during his absence. His exertions, especially during his visit to the Philadelphia Exhibition and the United States, resulted in many valuable donations to the Library.

The Hon. Edward Langton, who had acted as Treasurer during the temporary incapacity of Mr. MacPherson owing to an accident, was elected Treasurer at the annual meeting of the Board.

Sir Francis Murphy, upon leaving the colony for Europe at the end of the year, resigned his position as a Trustee.

Mr. Thomas Clarke, Master in the School of Design, was relieved from duty on account of ill-health, and Mr. Oswald Rose Campbell was appointed in his stead.

The Rotunda was fitted and used as a Newspaper Room after the removal of the exhibits for the Philadelphia Exhibition. The Trustees were also enabled to complete the iron fencing on the Swanston Street front, an improvement that was badly needed for the sake of the appearance of the building. The question of extending the National Museum Building at the University was again considered, and the Trustees decided, after full consideration of the whole question, that it was not advisable to spend any more money on the building at the University, but that a suitable building should be erected on the Public Library site.

1877.

During this year the want of space to accommodate the rapidly growing collection began to be acutely felt, and the Trustees drew attention particularly to the want of room for the expansion of the Library and for the Natural History collection.

Herbert's picture, a replica of "The Descent of Moses from the Mount," for which the artist received a commission in 1872, is referred to in the Trustees' Report for 1877, although it was not actually received till the beginning of 1878. Great anxiety was expressed on its arrival, as it was slightly damaged by some blotting paper, which was used in packing, adhering to the paint, and some weeks elapsed before the picture was cleaned and hung. The Committee of the National Gallery congratulated the Trustees and the public on obtaining such a noble production, and the Trustees passed a resolution that it was necessary to build a room specially for the exhibition of this picture. The replica was painted on paper instead of canvas, because Mr. Herbert held that the latter material rotted under the paint, and the colours deteriorated more rapidly than if paper were used. The Agent-General, when forwarding the picture, wrote that the replica was generally regarded as superior in every respect to the original fresco in the House of Lords. The artist assured him that he would require more than double the sum paid by the Trustees (£1,700) to produce another copy of the picture, and the Agent-General determined to insure the work for £4,000, which sum he thought it would fetch if offered for sale in London.

1878.

The printing of the new catalogue of the Library was carried on during this year, and the work connected with it occupied a large portion of the time of the Librarian and his staff, in addition to that of John Firth, who was specially employed as reader. The total number of volumes and pamphlets in the Library at the end of the year was 101,000, and the Trustees felt it incumbent upon them to renew their recommendations for additional accommodation.

Mr. George H. F. Ulrich resigned his position as Curator of the Mineral Collections and Instructor in Mineralogy in April, as he had accepted a professorship in the University of Otago. His resignation was accepted with regret, and Mr. O. R. Rule was appointed to the charge of the Mineral Collections.

Mr. Taddy Thomson purchased for the Trustees two paintings, "England," by Thomas Creswick, R.A., and Richard Ansdell, R.A., and "Queen Esther," by Edwin Long, R.A. The Hon. W. J. Clarke presented four marble statues of the Royal Family, by C. Summers, viz., Queen Victoria, and the Prince Consort, and the Prince and Princess of Wales, which were placed in the South Hall on the ground floor.

Early in the year some correspondence was received from Sir Charles Gavan Duffy, in which it was stated that G. F. Folingsby, of Munich, the painter of "Bunyan in Prison," was likely to settle in Victoria, if sufficient inducement were offered to him to do so. The Trustees decided that in consideration of the advantages likely to accrue to art from the presence of Mr. Folingsby in the colony, he should be commissioned to paint a picture at a cost not exceeding £500.

Professor Strong, of the Melbourne University, was appointed a Trustee in October.

The Chief Secretary wrote to the Trustees in October suggesting that Mr. Sheffield should retire from the office of Librarian on account of his advanced age. The Trustees replied that inasmuch as the lands and property of the Trustees of the Public Library and Museums were vested in them by Act of Parliament as an independent corporation, responsible for the custody, care, and management of the property, it was reasonable and absolutely necessary that they should continue to exercise the right of presenting for appointment and dismissal all officers and servants of the corporation, who were accountable to them for the performance of their duty. They also stated that they were at present satisfied with the Librarian, and that his services were indispensable whilst the catalogue of the Library was being printed. After the interchange of one or two letters

on the subject the matter was allowed to fall into abeyance.

1879.

The Rev. Dr. Bleasdale, who had been a Trustee since 1870, left Melbourne during the year and severed his connection with the Institution. The Hon. S. H. Bindon, who had been a Trustee and Chairman of the Industrial and Technological Museum Committee since 1870, died in August. Professor Nanson was appointed a Trustee in February, and Mr. Edward Ellis Morris, afterwards Professor of modern languages in the University of Melbourne, was appointed to the Board in September.

The Comte de Castelnau bequeathed to the Library a valuable collection of 500 books on Natural History, mostly relating to Ichthyology and Entomology. The Library also obtained, by purchase from Mr. Ocock (per Mr. J. B. Were) two of the original "Batman deeds," as they have since become known. These deeds purport to convey from certain native chiefs of Victoria to John Batman and others, large tracts of land in the neighbourhood of Melbourne and Geelong. The documents, though admirable specimens of conveyancing, were not valid, as the land could only be conveyed by grant from the Crown. They are nevertheless interesting relics of the foundation of the Colony of Victoria.

Mr. D. MacDougall presented a picture by A. C. Gow, entitled "No Surrender." Amongst the pictures purchased were Schenck's "Anguish," and Folingsby's "First meeting between Henry VIII. and Anne Boleyn."

1880.

The Hon. J. A. MacPherson resigned his office as Trustee as he was leaving the colony, and Mr. James Smith was appointed in his place in July. Mr. Henry Sheffield, who had been Librarian for about seven years, expressed a desire to be allowed to retire on account of his advanced age and failing health. Accordingly the Trustees in August advertised in all the principal colonial newspapers for applicants for the position. Some exception was taken to this procedure by the Chief Secretary, Mr. Graham Berry, who

intimated that the appointment of Librarian vested in the Governor-in-Council on the recommendation of the Chief Secretary. Sir Redmond Barry replied that Mr. Sheffield's resignation had not yet been accepted by the Trustees, and that they would communicate with the Chief Secretary as soon as they were prepared to accept the resignation and recommend a successor. This was the practice that had been followed with regard to the appointment of all officers and servants of the Institution since the appointment of the first Trustees in 1853. The Chief Secretary replied that, whilst he was always ready to give due attention to the wishes of the Trustees, he could not consent, even by implication, to abandon the right to make recommendations for appointments in the Library. The Library Committee received thirty-seven applications for the Librarianship. A Special Sub-Committee considered these and decided to submit the names of seven candidates for consideration by the Library Committee. Amongst the seven candidates selected were Marcus Clarke (the Sub-Librarian), Mr. W. H. Archer (formerly Registrar-General and Secretary to the Lands Department), and Dr. Bride (the University Librarian). The Library Committee selected Mr. Archer. The Trustees approved of the selection, and on the 16th of November recommended that Mr. Archer be appointed and enabled to enter on his duties on the 1st of January, 1881. As no reply to this letter had been received by the Trustees on the 23rd of December, they asked Mr. Sheffield to retain the office temporarily, and on his consenting to do so, further action was postponed.

On the 23rd of November Sir Redmond Barry died, and on the 7th of December the Trustees decided "to place on the record of their proceedings their unanimous feeling of deep sorrow for the loss the Institution has sustained by the death of Sir Redmond Barry, K.C.M.G., who, for twenty-seven years, filled with zeal, urbanity, and distinguished ability, the office of President of the Public Library, which owed its foundation to his public spirit, energy, and ardent sympathy with the cause of public education and refined enjoyment, while at the same time the Institution was

greatly indebted to the lamented gentleman for the valuable donations of books and other publications, which he was instrumental in procuring from the various Governments and public bodies of Europe and the United States." Mr. David Charteris McArthur, the Head of the Bank of Australasia in Melbourne, was elected President in succession to Sir Redmond Barry, and Sir George Verdon was elected Vice-President in place of Mr. McArthur.

The printed Catalogue of the Library, with a supplement almost to the close of 1880, was completed and issued in two quarto volumes containing over 2,000 pages. It contains a long preface by Sir Redmond Barry giving a sketch of the history of the Library.

1881.

Early in the year the question of the appointment of a Librarian was further considered. In addition to the nomination of Mr. W. H. Archer, the Chief Secretary asked to be favoured with the names of other applicants whom the Trustees considered eligible for the office. The Trustees held a special meeting to consider the matter and forwarded certain resolutions to the Chief Secretary, pointing out that it had been the invariable usage that all appointments in the Library were to be made upon their nomination; that it appeared necessary for the good government of the Institution that the duty and responsibility of selecting officers should remain with them; that they could not dispute the power of the Government to make appointments, without their advice or in opposition to it, but, in such an event, they could not be held responsible for the proper working of the establishment. Finally they suggested a conference on the subject, and it was arranged that the President, Sir George Verdon, and Professor Morris should see Mr. Berry on the matter. They did so, and reported that he was willing that the form of government by the Trustees of the British Museum should be observed as far as it could be applied. The practice for the appointment to the office of Principal Librarian in the British Museum was that two names should be submitted by the three principal Trustees of the Museum,



DAVID CHARTERIS McARTHUR.





and that the Crown should have the final selection. The trustees, therefore, proposed that the following regulation be gazetted, viz.:—"That in the nomination and appointment of the Librarian and of the other officers and servants of the Library, Museums, and National Gallery of Victoria, the procedure prescribed for the British Museum shall be followed, the functions of the three principal Trustees of the British Museum being exercised by the Trustees of the Public Library, Museums, and National Gallery." The Chief Secretary expressed his doubt that such a regulation was within the competence of the Trustees to make, but said that he saw no reason why the practice of the British Museum should not be at once applied to the pending appointment, which need not be longer delayed. The Trustees suggested that legal provision should be made to meet the case, but the Chief Secretary desired them to postpone consideration of this matter, and confine the correspondence for the time being to the circumstances under which a Librarian should be appointed. Accordingly, at a meeting on the 7th of June, a resolution was carried "That the Trustees, considering the present state of the Library, and the urgent necessity for the appointment of a Librarian being made, accede to the Chief Secretary's request and forward the names of two eligible candidates." The name of Thomas Francis Bride, LL.D., was accordingly submitted, and on the 6th of July, the Under-Secretary wrote informing the Trustees that the Governor-in-Council had been pleased to appoint him to the office.

Marcus Clarke, the Sub-Librarian, had become financially involved and had been made insolvent. As a consequence, in July, the Trustees requested him to resign. They had made the same request on a similar occasion in 1874, but Clarke was allowed to withdraw his resignation. Possibly a similar course might have been followed on the second occasion, but on the 2nd of August Marcus Clarke died. Disappointment at not being appointed Librarian and financial distress doubtless intensified the illness from which he was suffering, and he passed away at the comparatively early age of 34. The office of Sub-Librarian was abolished shortly

after his death, and two principal assistants were appointed to take charge of the Library under, or in the absence of, the Librarian.

On the motion of Professor Nanson it was decided that the books in the Library should be numbered for the purpose of exactly locating each volume. Three numbers were to be placed on each book—the first signifying the case or division in which the book was placed, the second signifying the number of the shelf in the case, and the third number signifying the place of the book on the shelf.

The Trustees asked for a special vote for the purchase of works of art from the International Exhibition, held at Melbourne in 1880-81, and the Government granted £1,500, and the sum of £500 for the purpose of purchasing objects for presentation to the various Governments and persons who had made donations to the Institution. The Trustees in the previous year had asked Mr. Taddy Thomson to delay all purchases in England, until they had made up their minds as to what should be purchased from the Exhibition. They complained that the grant was not made by the Government until most of the choice specimens in the Exhibition had been sold. However, they purchased some metal work and some specimens of ceramic art and glass ware for the Art Museum. They also obtained some Black and White drawings from the proprietors of the Graphic, three water colour drawings by Sir John Gilbert, Brierly, and de Tommasi, and five oil paintings by Eschke, Beyle, Wynfield, Courtens, and Felix Cogen.

At the end of the year Eugene von Guerard, who had been master in the School of Painting for eleven years, retired, owing to ill health.

The Hon. C. H. Pearson was appointed a Trustee in August.

After the appointment of Dr. Bride, the Trustees were informed that the Government was willing to introduce a Bill with regard to future appointments in the Library, and they were asked to consider the matter. They passed certain resolutions amounting to recommendations that there should be

eighteen Trustees appointed from time to time by the Governor-in-Council, and that in addition the Chief Justice, the Minister of Education, and the Chancellor of the University for the time being, should be Trustees *ex officio*; that absence for six months without leave of the general body of Trustees should render an office vacant; that the Trustees should nominate two candidates for the office of Librarian from whom the Governor-in-Council should select one; that in case the Governor should not select one of such candidates within a month after the names had been sent in, the appointment should revert absolutely to the Trustees; that all appointments, promotions, and dismissals other than that of the Librarian should be made by the Trustees; that the funds for the support of the Institution should be made a special appropriation. They also suggested that, in view of the urgent need of increased accommodation for the Institution, it would be expedient to raise a loan, if money could not conveniently be provided on the estimates for the purpose. A Bill, embodying most of these suggestions, was prepared by Dr. Dobson, but it was never submitted to Parliament, as the Premier declined to adopt the suggestions.

At the end of the year the Trustees recommended that Mr. W. Runtig should retire, and that Mr. Alfred Neville, one of the Library Assistants, should succeed him in the charge of the Newspaper Room.

Mr. Stephen Thompson was appointed to classify and catalogue the collection in the Art Museum.

1882.

In January it was decided to invite applications from persons qualified to take the position of Master in the School of Painting at a salary of £350 and fees. There were sixteen applicants for the position, but apparently none of them was deemed satisfactory. The Chairman was deputed to approach Mr. G. F. Folingsby, who was not among the applicants, with the result that he was appointed at a salary of £600 per annum, without fees. Shortly after his appointment the title of the office was altered to Director of the National Gallery and Master of the School of Art. Mr.

Folingsby asked that proper painting studios should be provided for the students, and one of his early acts as Director was to stop the practice of copying pictures in the gallery, unless for exceptional reasons, as he considered such a practice in no way beneficial to art students, and its effect on the public taste pernicious and lowering.

Mr. R. L. J. Ellery, the Government Astronomer, was appointed a Trustee in January, and Sir Bryan O'Loughlen, Bart., was appointed to the Board in August, in place of Mr. C. E. Bright, who had resigned office on leaving the colony to reside in England.

In May the question of Mr. Ormond's proposal to establish a Working Men's College was discussed by the Trustees. The Hon. C. H. Pearson moved "That steps be taken to increase the courses of lectures given under the direction of the Trustees of the Public Library, and to systematize the instruction conveyed in them, so that the teaching at the Public Library may discharge all the requirements of a Working Man's College." The Trustees, however, decided to ask Mr. Ormond to meet them in conference before dealing further with the matter. He did so, and the Trustees assured him of their desire to aid him in establishing a College, and suggested that use should be made of the Museum collections and books at the Public Library. This could best be done if the College were near the Library. Mr. Ormond expressed his intention of inviting representatives of the Public Library, the Trades' Hall, the University, the Government, and the subscribers, to meet him and discuss the project. The Hon. C. H. Pearson and the Hon. W. M. K. Vale were appointed to represent the Trustees in connection with the proposal to establish the College, and were subsequently elected as representatives on the permanent Council of the College.

The Trustees continued to urge the necessity for additional buildings, and in July special reports were prepared by the Heads of the different sections of the Institution. The Trustees prepared a report and waited upon the Chief Secretary (Mr. Grant), who expressed himself as personally favourable to the request for a grant for building purposes,

and promised to bring the matter under the notice of the Premier (Sir Bryan O'Loughlen), with a favourable recommendation. Sir Bryan O'Loughlen consented to place a sum of £4000 on the estimates, and promised a further sum in the following year. The architects were accordingly instructed to prepare plans for the South Wing of the Library block, fronting Little Lonsdale-street. Unfortunately, however, the estimates were delayed, and nothing could be done towards starting the new building during the year. Dr. Bride was busily engaged working out plans for the establishment of a Lending Branch, on which he submitted a report in August, and was arranging for the reclassification and the cataloguing of the books in the Reference Library. Up to this time the Library, admirable in many respects, was sadly deficient in its working equipment. There was no subject catalogue, nor were there any special lists or indexes for the guidance of readers, with the exception of some rough catalogues of books known as Bay Catalogues. These lists, useful only when the author's name was known, consisted of some score or so of catalogues of the contents of the Bays, or more properly of the great sub-divisions into which the books were divided, such as Biography, History, Chemistry, and so forth. The system of numbering the books had not as yet been introduced, and an inquiring student had often to wait whilst one of the assistants searched through several cases for a required volume. The Library had grown up under Messrs. Tulk and Sheffield, and they, as well as some of the older assistants, had an exceptional knowledge of the collection. But the number of books had increased to such an extent that no man could be certain of remembering and locating all the volumes. Complete re-organisation was essential, and the task, beset with difficulties, was undertaken with energy and zeal by Dr. Bride. His assistants were few and untrained. The older ones had grown up under a *laissez faire* system, and naturally did not appreciate the radical changes introduced by the new Librarian. Gradually, however, young University men were obtained for the new work, often, unfortunately, only to leave as their

training in the Library was beginning to bear fruit. The huge task of re-organization may be said to have commenced in 1882, but some years had necessarily to elapse before it could be completed.

It was decided to publish the Latrobe manuscripts, a collection of letters from Victorian Pioneers which had been collected by Governor Latrobe, and by him presented to the Trustees. The Chief Secretary arranged to have the printing done by the Government Printer, and Dr. Bride was directed to have the letters copied and prepared for publication.

The Mayor of Melbourne, Alderman C. J. Ham, on the 27th of October, presented the original journal of John Batman, a very interesting document relating to the early history of Victoria. He also presented some relics of Captain Cook, consisting of pictures, maps, and a small celestial globe.

The question of accepting on loan an oil painting of a nude figure, "Chloe," by Lefebvre, was discussed by the Trustees. The National Gallery Committee reported that it was inadvisable to hang the picture, which was offered on loan by Dr. Fitzgerald. The Trustees, however, on the advice of the Director, decided to accept the offer, and the picture was hung in the gallery towards the end of the year. The exhibition of the picture gave rise to a considerable amount of correspondence during the few months in which it was shown in the gallery.

#### 1883.

Mr. D. C. McArthur resigned his position as President on account of ill-health, and Sir George Verdon was elected in his stead. The office of Vice-President was conferred on Sir James McCulloch. Sir John O'Shanassy died on the 8th of May. Mr. C. E. Bright, who had resigned office in 1882, was re-appointed a Trustee in March, 1883.

A sum of £6,000 was voted by Parliament for building purposes, and the Trustees accepted a tender from James Treeby for building portion of the South Wing at a cost of £21,485, subject to money being provided for the purpose.



SIR GEORGE VERDON, K.C.M.G., F.R.S.





An especially noteworthy donation was made to the Library by the Emperor of Germany, who presented an *edition de luxe* of the works of Frederick the Great. The set consists of 31 quarto volumes, and only 200 copies were published.

The arrangements for supplying electric light were completed during the year, and the necessary machinery was erected in a shed at the back of the Library by the Australian Electric Light Company, which agreed to erect the plant at its own expense and light the Library for 12 months for the same amount as the Trustees paid in the previous year for gas. The improvement in the comfort of the Library, and especially with regard to the Galleries, was very noticeable, but the machinery for supplying the light was not as perfect as it has since become. It was no unusual thing for the supply to be cut off suddenly without warning of any kind, to the great discomfort of readers, who had to wait patiently till the somewhat tedious process of lighting the gas was carried out. The picture gallery was also lighted by electricity, and was opened in the evening as an experiment from the 24th of December to the 5th of January following. The lighting was not very successful, but the attendance averaged about 200 visits each night.

The question of opening the Institution on Sundays, which was frequently under discussion in the Press, was seriously debated by the Trustees during this year. In April a resolution in favour of opening the Library and Galleries during certain hours on Sundays was carried on the motion of Professor Strong. At the following meeting of the Trustees it was resolved to open the Museum and Galleries during each Sunday in May from 1.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. When this became known, a deputation of those opposed to the opening waited on the Premier (Mr. Service) and asked him, as Head of the Government, to prevent the opening of the Institution until Parliament met. Mr. Service pointed out that the Government had no direct control over the Trustees, but he promised to communicate to them the views of the deputation. He did so, and the Trustees held a special meeting on the matter. Sir James McCulloch moved that

action be postponed. Professor Pearson moved as an amendment "That the Premier be informed, in reply to his letter, that the Trustees, in resolving to open the Museum and National Gallery on Sundays, are exercising the power and discretion conferred upon them by law; that they consider the experiment they propose to try will be useful to Parliament in determining the whole matter when it meets; and they therefore regret that they cannot defer to the opinion of the Premier, without evasion of the responsibility properly devolving upon the Trustees." The amendment was seconded by Mr. Langton and carried. Professors Pearson, Strong, and Nanson, Dr. Dobson, and Messrs. James Smith and Ellery voted for the amendment, whilst Sir George Verdon, Sir James McCulloch, Professor Irving, and Messrs. Vale, a'Beckett and McArthur opposed it. A public meeting was held in the Town Hall on Thursday, the 3rd of May, by those in favour of the opening. Mr. Justice Higinbotham presided, and the meeting was described as "one of the largest and most enthusiastic ever held in Melbourne." A "Sunday Liberation Society" was formed, and took a special interest in pressing the claims of those who favoured the opening, whilst a "Sunday Observance League" did battle for those opposed to the action of the Trustees. The Museum and Galleries were opened on the 6th of May from 1.30 p.m. to 5 p.m., and in that short space of time nearly 6,000 visits were recorded by the turnstiles. On Monday, the 7th of May, another large meeting was held in the Town Hall. This was under the auspices of the Sunday Observance League, and was as largely attended as the previous meeting of the opposite party. The Galleries and Museums were kept open during the month of May, and at a meeting on the 28th of that month the Trustees decided to continue the practice. The newspapers were filled with letters for and against the opening, and with accounts of meetings and articles on the subject. On the 4th of July Parliament passed a resolution, on the motion of Mr. Mirams, condemning the action of the Trustees and affirming that, as the question was one of public policy, it was the prerogative of Parliament alone to decide it. The action of the Trustees,

in declining to postpone the opening till Parliament met, was regarded as a slight upon the Government and an infringement of the rights of Parliament, and the Trustees were called upon to close the Institution on Sundays until Parliament should otherwise determine. The motion was carried by a majority of 25, 37 voting for the motion and 12 against it. The Trustees met on the 6th of July and decided that "In deference to the Resolution of the Legislative Assembly, the Museum and Galleries be closed on Sundays." The Industrial Museum and Picture Galleries had been opened altogether on nine Sunday afternoons, and the attendance varied from 5,750 on the first Sunday to about 3,000.

The Exhibition Trustees wrote in May suggesting that the Industrial and Technological Museum should be transferred to the Exhibition Building, but the Trustees declined to entertain the proposal.

In August the Trustees considered the provisions of a new Public Service Bill, in which no provision was made for exempting the officers of the Institution from the ordinary regulations of the Service as regarded appointment and control. It was decided to write to the Chief Secretary and ask that the right of nomination for appointment by the Trustees, as recognised by the late Government, might be ratified by law.

1884.

The Hon. Graham Berry and Messrs. Andrew Harper and Henry Gyles Turner were, in May, appointed Trustees. The Hon. J. G. Francis died on the 25th of January, and the Board also lost the services of the Hon. John McGregor and Sir William Mitchell, who died on the 25th of July and 24th of November respectively. Professor Strong, who had decided to remain in England, resigned his appointment as a Trustee in December.

The practice of appointing only certain Trustees to be members of the Sectional Committees was found to be in some ways irksome, and Professor Morris drew attention to this at the annual meeting in April. He moved that "As

each Trustee had been appointed Trustee, not of a part, but of the whole Institution, and as the present system of Committee meetings has been found wasteful of the time of Trustees, that henceforth the business of all the departments be transacted at a general meeting of the Trustees, and that for each meeting one agenda paper be prepared and one minute book used." The motion was negatived at the time, but it was felt that some change in the procedure was desirable.

The Trustees continued to object to the application to the members of the staff of the Public Service Act of 1883. The classification of the officers by the newly appointed Public Service Board was, however, proceeded with, and the Commissioners assured the Trustees of their willingness to shape the rules as far as possible to meet the requirements of the Trust.

Dr. Ferdinando Gagliardi, who had been employed in a temporary capacity to assist in the reclassification of the Library, was permanently appointed as an Assistant in November.

It was decided in this year that the Attendants in the Institution should wear a regular uniform. It was also decided that the Library officers should wear a badge when on duty, but the latter proposal was found unsatisfactory and allowed to drop.

The historical painting, "Quatre Bras" by Miss Thompson, afterwards Lady Butler, was purchased for the Gallery by Mr. A. Taddy Thomson, and received in September.

Mr. Frederick Dunn, Senior Assistant in the Industrial Museum, resigned his office in October, as he had accepted the position of Public Analyst to the City of Melbourne.

1885.

The building of the South Wing of the Library was continued during this year and practically completed, with the exception of the south-west corner. The samples of stone submitted for the completion of this corner had been condemned, and the Trustees had not been able to overcome the difficulty as to obtaining suitable stone for the work. They,

therefore, decided to abandon the completion of this part of the building, and apply the money voted for it towards the erection of accommodation for the art classes and the extension of the Picture Gallery.

The Rotunda was still used for a Newspaper Room, but it was considered very unsatisfactory, and a proposal was made to transfer the papers to the vaults under the South Wing. The light in the vaults, however, was so bad that it was decided not to move the collection of newspapers till better accommodation was available.

The Superintendent of the Industrial and Technological Museum prepared, for the Colonial and Indian Exhibition to be held in London in 1886, a collection of Australian timbers, and a large number of models illustrative of the fruits of the colony. The Trustees also decided to forward to the Exhibition twelve of the best pictures of the Students in the Art Schools, in order to illustrate the progress of art in the Colony.

The Trustees still found themselves much hampered by the provisions of the Public Service Act as applied to the staff of the Institution, and they prepared a Bill for the amendment of the Libraries Act, embodying their views on the subject, which they duly submitted for the consideration of the Government. The main alterations suggested were that the number of Trustees should not exceed twenty-one, and that they should have the sole and entire management of the affairs of the Corporation, and have power to appoint and dismiss all officers and servants.

The services of Mr. Stephen Thomson, who had been engaged to classify and catalogue the collections in the Art Museum were discontinued, and the charge of the Ethnological collections and of the Art Museum was divided between Mr. Cosmo Newbery and Mr. Folingsby.

At the Annual Meeting of the Trustees in April it was resolved, on the motion of Mr. Harper, "That all the Trustees be members of the Sectional Committees, excepting the Building Committee." In October the Building Committee was made to conform to the same rule, and henceforth all Trustees were members of each of the Sectional Com-

mittees. No change, however, was made in the method of electing different Trustees to act as Chairmen of the Committees.

The Hon. James MacBain was appointed a Trustee in August.

1886.

Early in the year a letter was received from the Chief Secretary transferring two officers to take the place temporarily of Mr. Curtis, the Secretary, and Mr. Stewart, the Clerk, both of whom were about to retire from duty owing to ill-health. Dr. Bride wrote to the Trustees and offered to take up the duties of the Secretary's office in addition to those of Librarian. This offer was accepted, the Trustees undertaking to arrange for a clerk to assist Dr. Bride, and the Government was asked to withdraw the two officers transferred to the staff in place of Messrs. Curtis and Stewart.

As all the Trustees were now members of the Sectional Committees, it was decided that the practice, hitherto in vogue, of making separate reports from each Committee to the Minister, should cease, and that the Trustees should submit a general report.

Mr. O. R. Campbell retired before the classes assembled, and Mr. F. McCubbin, a former student in the Gallery, was appointed acting-Master of the School of Design, which appointment was subsequently confirmed.

The fitting of the first floor of the South Wing for Library extension purposes, and the transfer of books from the Queen's Room, occupied some months, and it was not until the 2nd of September that the formal opening of the new wing took place. The ground floor was occupied as an Art Museum, and the first floor was used for Library purposes, the name of "The Barry Hall" being bestowed upon it in memory of Sir Redmond Barry. At the opening ceremony Sir George Verdon delivered an address, in which he briefly reviewed the history of the different branches of the Institution, and referred to the intentions of the Trustees with regard to its future development. Sir Henry Loch, the Governor of the Colony, then named the Barry Hall, and

declared the new wing open to the public. It was estimated that the Barry Hall would provide for 26,000 volumes, but the accumulation of books had been so great, that the President considered that it would be necessary to build the North Wing of the Library in two years' time, if the collection continued to grow as heretofore.

The system of a central Inquiry Desk in charge of one of the senior officers was introduced during this year. The desk was placed in the centre of the Queen's Room, opposite the entrance. At first it consisted of an octagonal box without any protection from draughts, a serious disadvantage, as it was placed in the most draughty place in the Library. Later, this box was surrounded with glass in a manner which added to the comfort of the occupant in winter, but which was a serious blot in the appearance of the handsome Reading Room. Nevertheless, ugly, noisy, and uncomfortable as it was, it served its purpose and remained in use for some years.

The unbound periodicals, which had been very inadequately provided for in pigeon-holes in the large bay under the portico, were transferred to the east end of the Barry Hall, and accommodation was found for the cataloguing staff in the room beyond the new Periodicals Department.

Mr. William Gilbee, a prominent Melbourne Surgeon, bequeathed to the Trustees a sum of £1,000 for the purchase of an Australian historical picture.

The money voted, but not expended, for the completion of the south-west corner of the Library Building, was applied to building a new picture gallery and painting studios on the south side of the existing picture gallery in Little Lonsdale-street. Extra money was voted for the purpose by Parliament, and the building was well advanced by the end of the year.

The Trustees became the medium for the distribution of Government publications, in accordance with a long expressed desire, and the large increase in the number of donations during the year was in part attributed to this cause.

At the Annual Meeting of the Trustees the Hon. Edward Langton was elected Vice-President and Chairman of the National Gallery Committee, in place of Sir James McCulloch, who had gone to reside in England, and Mr. H. G. Turner was elected Treasurer, in place of Mr. Langton.

It was decided, on the advice of the Director, Mr. G. F. Folingsby, to establish in connection with the art classes at the National Gallery, a Travelling Scholarship of the value of £150 a year, tenable for three years, and that the first award be made in 1887.

It was resolved to remove the Caretaker's cottage at the east end of the South Wing, in order to construct a temporary entrance to the picture galleries. A cottage on the Russell-street front of the grounds, occupied by one of the Attendants, was given to the Caretaker.

Sir James McCulloch was authorised, in conjunction with Mr. A. Taddy Thomson, to purchase pictures for the Trustees. They were instructed to try and induce Mr. Alma Tadema to accept a commission to paint a picture for £2000, and Mr. Tadema was asked to assist them with his advice on the purchase of pictures.

In October, the Committee of the "Service Memorial Fund" presented a portrait of the Hon. James Service, by G. F. Folingsby.

1887.

The Hon. T. T. a Beckett resigned his office as a Trustee in June. In July the Librarian reported that the Hon. W. E. Hearn, Dean of the Faculty of Law in the University of Melbourne, Dr. Leeper, the Warden of Trinity College, and Mr. A. S. Way, Headmaster of Wesley College, had been appointed Trustees. Mr. David Charteris McArthur, one of the original Trustees, died on the 15th of November. He had been prominently connected with the Library since its foundation, and had been President of the Trustees from 1880 to 1883, when he resigned the office owing to ill-health, though he still retained his seat on the Board.

In February Dr. F. D. Bird was engaged to deliver a course of lectures on anatomy to the art students, and at the



end of the year he was appointed to the position of lecturer on anatomy.

The Hon. Edward Langton visited England during this year and was asked to assist Mr. A. T. Thomson and Sir James McCulloch in the selection of pictures for the Gallery. He selected "The First Cloud" by Orchardson, and "An Easterly Breeze" by Peter Graham, and, as his colleagues approved, the pictures were bought.

W. R. Bentley, the second Principal Assistant in the Library, retired in November owing to ill-health.

The new building for the extension of the Picture Galleries on the Little Lonsdale-street front was so far advanced that the Trustees agreed, at the wish of the Government, to lend the hall on the ground floor for the Grosvenor Gallery Inter-colonial Exhibition. This was an exhibition of pictures sent out for sale from the Grosvenor Gallery in London by Sir Coutts Lindsay. It was opened on the 27th of October and remained open till the 7th of January, 1888. From this collection two pictures by Keeley Halswelle were purchased, viz. :—"The Heart of the Coolins" and "Welcome Shade," and also "Love and Death," a replica by G. F. Watts.

The first triennial "Travelling Scholarship" was awarded at the exhibition of Students' work in April to Mr. John Longstaff for his picture "Breaking the News."

Mr. Cosmo Newbery, who was seriously injured in the Windsor railway accident, was, in September, given leave of absence for 12 months.

On the 23rd of August the statue of Sir Redmond Barry, "erected by a grateful public," was formally unveiled at the Public Library. During his lifetime it had been suggested that some memorial was due to him for his many public services, and in 1877 a committee was appointed to receive subscriptions and arrange for the erection of a statue. Sir William Stawell was President of this Committee, and the Mayor of Melbourne general chairman. After Sir Redmond Barry's death in 1880, designs for the statue were invited from local artists, and that of Mr. James Gilbert was accepted. He modelled the statue in clay, but died before its completion, and the Committee was in a difficulty as to

the best course to pursue in the matter. Mr. Percival Ball, a sculptor recently arrived from Rome and London, offered to complete the model as designed by Mr. Gilbert, and the figure was cast at the Masefield foundry in London. In the absence of Sir William Stawell, Councillor Cain, the Mayor of Melbourne, invited the Governor to unveil the statue. Sir Henry Loch did so, and formally presented it to the Trustees in the name of the people of Victoria.

Mr. H. G. Turner, who was about to visit Europe, resigned the position of Treasurer, and Mr. James Smith was appointed in his place.

1888.

A slight outbreak of fire had occurred in the Laboratory in November, 1887, and the amount of temporary wooden and iron buildings by which it was surrounded had given the Trustees some anxiety. It was therefore resolved to inform the Chief Secretary that, as the Mining Department was chiefly concerned in the work done at the Laboratory, and as it was only required at the Museum for testing minerals, it ought not be allowed to remain at the Public Library Buildings. The risk of fire was great, and if removed, all the Trustees would ask for was accommodation for one of their officers and access to appliances for testing minerals. The question came up for consideration later, but action was deferred in view of the probability of abolishing all temporary buildings, owing to the proposed erection of a new Museum and Galleries.

Mr. G. G. Brockway, who was one of the first members of the Library staff, and who had risen to be Principal Assistant, retired on the 29th of February. Dr. F. Gagliardi and Mr. M. F. Dowden were promoted to be Principal Assistants, the latter in place of Mr. Bentley, who had retired in the previous year.

The Melbourne Centennial International Exhibition was opened on the 1st of August. At this Exhibition the Trustees purchased two notable pieces of statuary by Sir Edgar Boehm, viz. :—"The Young Bull and Herdsman," a marble group, and "St. George and the Dragon," a group

in Bronze. They received as a gift from the Duke of Westminster Turner's "Dunstanborough Castle," which was shown at the British Loan collection: and Mr. Molesworth Greene presented Gude's "After the Storm," from the German Gallery. The Trustees also purchased from the Exhibition Briton Riviere's "Roman Holiday," Stanfield's "Morning After Trafalgar," and Ward's "Josephine Signing the Act of her Divorce."

The year was notable for additions to the National Gallery. Besides those already mentioned, Mr. H. Koekoek presented a painting "The Land's End," and Messrs. G. and R. Tangye presented "James Watt's Workroom," by Pratt. From England the Trustee's obtained Alma Tadema's "Vintage Festival," Linnell's "Wheat," and Watts's "Portrait of Lord Tennyson."

In December Mr. Matthew O'Shanassy presented to the Trustees the library of his late father, Sir John O'Shanassy, consisting of over 2,000 volumes. The library had been purchased by subscription for presentation to Sir John O'Shanassy in recognition of his public services.

The newspaper collection was transferred to the basement of the new Picture Gallery, and the Rotunda, which had been in use as a Newspaper Room, was fitted for the exhibition of sculpture. The new Picture Gallery (known for a time as the Grosvenor Gallery, and later named the Buvelot Gallery) was lent to the Victorian Artists' Association for holding an exhibition in April. In June it was lent for an exhibition of works of the late Louis Buvelot, and later was used for showing historical portraits, engravings, etc., belonging to the National Gallery.

Most of the work of the classes previously carried on at the Industrial Museum had been taken up by the Working Men's College, and during the year it was decided that the Telegraphy Class, which was still carried on at the Museum, should be discontinued, so far as the Trustees were concerned.

A sum of £12,000 was voted for the extension of the National Museum Building at the University, but the money was not appropriated, and no new buildings were erected.

During the year the Trustees made an arrangement with the Education Department, by which they were to obtain the services of Mr. G. G. Simpson, for portion of his time, to teach technical drawing, with a view to encouraging the application of art to industrial purposes. Mr. Simpson was appointed in England as a highly qualified teacher from South Kensington. He was to occupy the joint position of Art Inspector in connection with the State schools and teacher of technical drawing at the National Gallery, and his salary was to be paid in equal portions by the Trustees and the Education Department. The Trustees continued to pay him under this arrangement for two years or more, but were never able to obtain the benefit of his services, as his time was fully occupied in the Education Department.

1889.

Sir William Stawell, the last survivor of the original Trustees (with the exception of Mr. H. C. E. Childers, who had resigned in 1863), died at Naples on the 12th of March. In May the Trustees were informed that Messrs. David Syme, proprietor of the "Age," and Robert Wallen, a leading stock broker, of literary tastes, had been appointed members of the Board.

It was resolved to ask the Governor, Sir Henry Loch, who was visiting England, to request Her Majesty Queen Victoria to sit for a portrait by Mr. Herkomer, or any other artist whom she might select. The Queen declined to sit, and Sir Henry Loch suggested that a copy of the Jubilee Portrait should be obtained. The suggestion was approved, but Mr. Herkomer would not agree to copy it, and proposed to paint a portrait from Gilbert's statue, a course to which the Trustees agreed.

Briton Riviere's picture, "Deer Stealers Pursued by Sleuth Hounds," was sent to the Agent-General, who was to consult with Mr. Taddy Thomson and Sir James McCulloch as to the best method of selling it. The Trustees were advised not to sell the picture, and it was returned to the National Gallery.

The Government decided to provide £90,000 for the erection of buildings for the Institution, and the Trustees obtained reports from the heads of departments as to their needs. These reports were printed and considered, and the architects were instructed to obtain sketch plans of buildings to meet requirements. Sketches were accordingly prepared, and a proposal to build on the lawns in front of the building was, amongst other suggestions, considered. It was decided to build, in the first instance, a continuation of the eastern block, providing two art galleries and a museum on the north side of the existing Picture Galleries, at an estimated cost of £45,000. The Trustees having determined not to call for competitive designs, the architects were instructed to prepare plans and working drawings, and to obtain tenders for the erection of these buildings.

Mr. James Graham presented a picture by Peter Graham, R.A., entitled "After the Massacre of Glencoe."

In November leave of absence for six months was granted to the President, Sir George Verdon, who was about to visit Europe.

The use of portion of the Portrait Gallery (Buvelot Gallery) was granted to the Victorian Artists' Society for the purposes of their Winter Exhibition, but it was not thought advisable to lend it when a second application was made in the summer, as it was then fully occupied by the public collections.

In July Mr. Edward Howitt was appointed temporarily to assist in the completion of the catalogue of the Art Museum.

1890.

Early in the year the Librarian, Dr. Bride, obtained six months' leave. During his absence the duties of Librarian were carried out by Dr. Gagliardi, and Mr. M. F. Dowden acted as Secretary to the Trustees.

"The Library, Museums, and National Gallery Act" and the "Free Libraries Act" were incorporated into one Act of Parliament, known as the "Libraries Act 1890." This

was effected by the consolidation of the statutes by Chief Justice Higinbotham.

The Trustees still complained of great difficulties occasioned by the application of the Public Service Act to the Institution, and much consideration was given to the question during the year. Some regulations as to the qualifications of candidates for various positions in the Institution were adopted by the Public Service Commissioners, but control of the staff, and the right of appointment, promotion, and dismissal, were not given to the Trustees.

The tender of Mr. F. Lockington for the erection of the new Industrial Museum and two galleries for £44,208 was accepted in April. The Trustees had been successful in obtaining a promise of £90,000 for building purposes from the Gillies Government, the money to be provided out of a proposed sale of the Kew Asylum reserve and other Crown lands. An advance of £37,000 was voted on the Public Works estimates for 1890-91, and the tender for the new buildings was accordingly accepted. The erection of these buildings necessitated the removal of the existing Laboratory, Lecture Hall, and offices connected with the Museum. It was decided that the Trustees should not erect another Laboratory, and the services of the Assistants connected with that Department of the Museum were dispensed with. The Superintendent of the Museum, whose agreement with the Trustees included the free use of the Laboratory, was compensated by an increase of salary and by other concessions, and he was allowed the right of private practice in analytical work in his own laboratory.

The death of Mr. Reed, the original architect for the buildings, was reported to the Trustees in May.

In July Sir George Verdon reported on certain matters that he had promised to attend to during his visit to Europe. He had asked Mr. Alma Tadema to recommend pictures from the Continental Schools for the National Gallery. Mr. Tadema stated that he agreed with Sir James McCulloch and Mr. Taddy Thomson that the best pictures by foreign artists were in the hands of dealers, and could not be

purchased directly from the painters, and whilst he was unable to act as a representative of the Trustees, he undertook to recommend any suitable pictures that might come under his notice when visiting the Continent. Sir George Verdon had also arranged for a design for the gold medal for the Travelling Scholarship, and Mr. Allan Wyon had undertaken to make the dies. The design chosen was a winged figure of Victory and the motto from Horace, "Victoria fronde coronet," was altered to the present tense, so that it might be translated, "Victoria (or Victory) crowns with bays." On the reverse side of the medal was a wreath of Victorian plants, with the inscription, "National Gallery of Victoria, Australia," and within the wreath, "Travelling Scholarship." The name of the recipient was to be engraved on the edge. Sir George also arranged that a second die should be made for the reverse, in which the inscription should be altered to the full title of the Institution on the outer rim, and the words, "For benefactions and services," should be placed within the wreath. This medal was for presentation to those who performed special services for the Institution. The President also reported that he had visited the chief officers of the British Museum, and had consulted with them and other authorities on various matters affecting the welfare of the Institution.

A motion by Professor Morris in favour of opening the Institution on Sundays was carried in July, and ordered to be communicated to the Chief Secretary.

At the Exhibition of Students' work held in November, the Travelling Scholarship was awarded to Mr. Aby Altson, for a picture entitled "Flood Sufferings."

Mr. A. Taddy Thomson and Sir James McCulloch resigned their positions as selectors of works of art for the Trustees. In accordance with the decision of the Trustees to award gold medals to persons who had rendered special services to the Institution, the first two of these medals were awarded to Mr. Thomson and Sir James McCulloch for their work on behalf of the National Gallery.

It was decided to appoint Mr. Thomas Wallis, an art dealer, to be agent in London for the Trustees, at the usual

commission, but he was to buy no pictures until approved by a Committee, consisting of the Slade professors at Oxford and Cambridge (Mr. Middleton and Mr. Herkomer).

In December the Trustees formally received from Mr. Justice Hodges, on behalf of the subscribers, a bust by Percival Ball of the Right Rev. James Moorhouse, Bishop of Melbourne.

1891.

Mr. G. F. Folingsby, Director of the National Gallery and Master of the School of Painting, died on the 4th of January. The Trustees recorded that his administration had been very successful, and marked a new departure in the progress of the Gallery and of the art classes. Mr. McCubbin was appointed acting Director, and the Trustees invited applications for the vacant office both in Europe and Australasia.

Mr. Louis Fagan, of the British Museum, who was visiting Australia, had a personal interview with the Trustees in February, and promised them any advice or assistance that it might be in his power to render, as to the best method of choosing pictures, or upon other matters.

In May Mr. Newbery was given leave of absence for six months to visit Europe on business connected with the Department of Mines, and Mr. Rule was appointed to act as Superintendent during his absence.

The Trustees had frequently considered the advisability of establishing a Lending Branch in connection with the Public Library, but had never had the necessary funds and accommodation. In May a deputation from the Trades Hall waited upon them and urged the immediate establishment of a Lending Library. The Trustees promised that an effort would be made to start such a branch immediately. When the deputation withdrew it was decided to open a Lending branch in the Newspaper Room as soon as arrangements could be made, by transferring such books as were suitable and could be spared from the Reference Library, and by adding such new books as funds would permit. The Government was asked to provide money, and the Library



Committee was requested to draw up regulations. The regulations were submitted and approved by the Trustees in June, but the Government declined to give any assistance. Instructions were, however, given to the Librarian to proceed with preparations for starting the Library as soon as possible.

The card catalogue, on the Dictionary principle, containing entries both under author and subject, was placed in the Library during this year. It contained about 200,000 cards, most of which had not been previously arranged in alphabetical order. They had been kept aside for revision by the Librarian, but the task had become an impossible one, and the cards were arranged for use by the staff and by the public. Many formal inconsistencies were discovered and gradually put right, and the catalogue became at once an invaluable key to the collection.

In November, 1890, the Trustees had resolved to call for designs, in Australia, for a group to match the "St. George and the Dragon," and to offer prizes of £200 and £100 for the models awarded first and second place respectively, if of sufficient merit. The models were submitted to the Trustees in July, and it was resolved that the first prize of £200 be not awarded, but that the second prize of £100 be given to Mr. Bertram Mackennal for his design, entitled "The Triumph of Truth."

The Hon. J. A. MacPherson, who had been a Trustee since 1870, died on the 23rd of August, and Sir Charles MacMahon, who had been a member of the Board since 1872, died on the 28th of the same month.

The Hon. C. J. Ham was appointed a Trustee in October.

It was decided to purchase for £500 a selection from the works of art left by the late Director, consisting of 125 studies by Mrs. Folingsby, 83 studies by G. F. Folingsby, and an unfinished portrait of Mr. Folingsby by J. Longstaff.

Mr. Herkomer asked that the commission for his portrait of Queen Victoria be raised from 600 guineas to 900 guineas, and the Trustees agreed to the increase.

A portrait of a gentleman, supposed to be a Gainsborough, which had been sent to London in 1889 for identi-

fication, was pronounced by the authorities consulted to be a portrait of a French gentleman by a French artist.

The Slade professors did not see their way to work with Mr. Wallis in the selection of pictures for the Trustees, and they differed between themselves as to the pictures to be bought and the method of selection. It was therefore decided to ask Mr. Herkomer to act on his own responsibility, a course to which he agreed, but stated that he would consult with Mr. J. C. Horsley, R.A., and Mr. Briton Rivière. He selected the following pictures, viz. :—

“Ulysses and the Sirens,” by J. W. Waterhouse.

“The Right of Way,” by F. Walker.

“The Crisis,” by F. Dicksee.

Professor Herkomer also selected during the year a large number of etchings by Rembrandt, Van Dyck, Dürer, and others, and two water colour drawings by Meyerheim and Lionel Smythe.

Mr. N. Chevalier had been asked to act with Mr. Louis Fagan as a committee to report on applications in London for the Directorship, but he was unable to do so. Mr. Fagan expressed his willingness to advise the Trustees, and after consultation with Mr. Fildes he recommended Mr. L. Bernard Hall for the office, and the Trustees, after having considered the claims of all the candidates, approved of the recommendation.

In June the Trustees decided to offer two prizes of £100 each for the best landscape and the best figure picture respectively, to be exhibited at the Annual Exhibition of the work of the Students of the National Gallery, by artists carrying on their profession in Victoria. It was intended at the time to hold such an exhibition yearly, and it was to be known as the “National Gallery Annual Art Exhibition.” The artists did not respond as expected, and the idea of holding the exhibition annually was not carried out. The first pictures exhibited under this scheme were shown with the Students’ work in November, and the prize for the best landscape was awarded to Mr. James Peele for his “Evening Shadows, Otira Gorge.” The judges advised that the second prize of £100 be not awarded for a figure picture,

but that it should be divided into two sums of £50, one such sum to be awarded to Signor Catani for his picture "Faith," and the other to Mr. John Mather for his painting of "The Buckland Valley." This proposal was adopted by the Trustees. Mr. Mather also obtained a prize of £25 for the best water colour drawing exhibited, viz., "Morning, Lake Omeo." For the best group of pictures a prize of £25 was awarded to Mr. E. W. Andrews. The Trustees decided to purchase the picture "Evening Shadows," by Mr. James Peele, and also Mr. Mather's water colour, "Morning, Lake Omeo"; the prizes awarded to these artists to merge in the price paid for the pictures.

Mr. John Longstaff, who was entrusted with a commission to select a picture for the Trustees, purchased from the Salon an oil painting by Nozal, "La Seine à Saint Pierre près Louviers."

#### 1892.

The year 1892 was the beginning of the retrenchment era, following upon the years of extravagance in the colony, known as the "boom" period, and early in the year the Trustees were instructed by the Government to retrench in every possible way. In their report in March they pointed out that whilst this was possible in some departments, it could not be carried out to any great extent in others. The vote for pictures might be suspended for a time, but the Public Library could not stand still. The new galleries, which were nearing completion, would provide all necessary accommodation for some years, but a new Library Building was greatly required, and whilst reluctant to suggest further expenditure, the Trustees were compelled to recommend that provision should be made for this purpose. The appeal, however, was quite useless at such a time, and the Trustees were considered very fortunate in having obtained in all an advance of £55,000, against a sum of £90,000 which had been promised to them under the "Land Sales by Auction Fund Act" of 1891.

In May the Librarian submitted a scheme by which retired constables were to be employed as attendants in the

Museums and Galleries, and the proposal was approved by the Trustees, as it was thought a considerable saving would be effected by its adoption, and that elderly men were suitable for the work. One or two men were appointed under this scheme, as opportunity occurred, but the practice was then allowed to drop.

Professor Herkomer's portrait of Queen Victoria was received early in the year, and he selected for the Gallery "African Panthers," by Swan, "An English Summer Day," by J. W. North, "A Salvation Army Shelter," by E. Borough Johnson, a water colour drawing by J. W. North, entitled "A Little Copse on the Hill," and some etchings by Whistler.

Mr. Alfred Felton presented a picture by Rupert Bunny, entitled "Sea Idylls."

Several pictures were obtained from the Anglo-Australian Exhibition, which was held at the Exhibition Building during the year.

The Picture Gallery was opened at night on the 2nd March, a temporary entrance from Little Lonsdale Street being used. The attendance was not very satisfactory, and in December it was decided to open only on Monday and Saturday nights.

Mr. Bernard Hall arrived in Melbourne in March, and at once assumed the duties of Director.

Mr. O. R. Rule, in April, resigned his position as Mineralogist, and in September Mr. R. H. Walcott was nominated for the vacant position.

The Lending Library was opened to the public in temporary quarters in the Newspaper Room on the 8th August. The hours of opening were from 2 p.m. till 8 p.m. daily, except on Sundays. It contained 6,000 volumes, and a printed catalogue of these volumes on the Dictionary principle was published when the Library was opened. Before the end of the year 31,000 volumes were lent, and the roll contained nearly 5,000 borrowers. Ratepayers were allowed to borrow on their own guaranty, and non-ratepayers were required to obtain a guaranty from two ratepayers. The public were not allowed access to the

shelves, but an indicator was used, which showed what books were available and what books were out on loan. Readers had to ascertain that a book was on the shelves before asking for it, and then they had to fill in a card of application in order to obtain the book. Fourteen days were allowed for reading a book, and if detained beyond that time a borrower was fined at the rate of threepence per day.

Mr. Molesworth R. Greene was appointed a Trustee in July. Dr. Pearson resigned in August on ceasing to reside in Victoria, and in October the Rev. W. H. Fitchett was appointed in his place. Sir James MacBain died on the 4th of November, and in December Mr. John Mather, President of the Victorian Artists' Society, was appointed to succeed him.

In October it was decided that a gold medal for services rendered to the Institution should be presented to Sir Henry Brougham Loch, ex-Governor of Victoria. He had always shown a great interest in the Institution, and had used his influence in England to advance its welfare. He also obtained and presented to the Museum important collections of South African ethnological exhibits.

In December it was decided that the rooms on the ground floor under the Stawell Gallery should be used as quarters by the Librarian.

### 1893.

Sir James McCulloch, who had been Vice-President of the Board of Trustees, and who had assisted in purchasing pictures for the National Gallery, died on the 30th of January.

The new Industrial and Technological Museum and the Picture Galleries on the north and west of it were quietly opened to the public on the 11th March. There had been some delay in finishing the buildings owing to the financial difficulty of the time, and the impossibility of obtaining money as had been intended under the "Land Sales by Auction Act."

In March the Trustees determined that the new North Gallery should be the only one opened at night, and that it should be open only on Saturday evenings. In November it was decided, as the average attendance was only about 40, to discontinue altogether the practice of opening the Gallery at night.

The Lending Library was transferred, about the middle of the year, from the Newspaper Room to the northern half of the old Technological Museum, and the south portion of the old Museum was used for the exhibition of Economic Botany. The collection of Specifications of Patents and the English Parliamentary Papers were also transferred to the old Technological Museum.

The use of the first Picture Gallery (now known as the McArthur Gallery) was granted to the Royal Anglo-Australian Society of Artists, and the Exhibition of this Society was opened on the 10th of March, and remained open till the 15th of July. The Gallery was lent to the Victorian Artists' Society from the 15th of July to the 30th of September.

The only pictures of note obtained during this year were: "In the Fields," by J. J. Souza-Pinto, and "Don Quixote," by A. Demont, both selected from the Salon by Mr. John Longstaff.

Her Majesty Queen Victoria presented to the National Gallery a number of etchings by herself and the late Prince Consort.

It was decided that the Art Galleries should be named as follows, viz.:—The new north Picture Gallery to be called "The Latrobe Gallery," in honour of the first Governor of Victoria; the west gallery to be called "The Stawell Gallery," in honour of Sir William Stawell, one of the original Trustees, and Lieutenant Governor and Chief Justice of the colony; the old Picture Gallery to be called "The McArthur Gallery," in honour of David Charteris McArthur, one of the original Trustees. The South Gallery, which had been called the Grosvenor Gallery, from the fact that the Grosvenor Gallery Exhibition was held in it when first opened, was to be known as "The Buvelot Gallery," in

honour of Louis Buvelot, the pioneer artist of Victoria, and the Art Museum under the Barry Hall was to be called "The Verdon Gallery," in honour of Sir George Verdon, who was President of the Trustees at the time.

Mr. R. E. Wallen died on the 1st of October, and in the same month the Rev. John Reid was appointed a Trustee.

The Travelling Scholarship was awarded to Mr. J. Quinn for a picture entitled "Too Late."

An arrangement was made with Messrs. Fergusson and Mitchell to publish, free of cost to the Trustees, an illustrated catalogue of the pictures in the National Gallery. The right of selling photographs of pictures in the Galleries was to be conferred on Messrs. Fergusson and Mitchell, and they were to have the proceeds of the ordinary sale of the catalogue. They also undertook to print catalogues of other sections of the Institution, if given the right to sell copies at certain prices, and at a later date they issued catalogues of the Rock collection and of the Timber exhibits in the Industrial and Technological Museum.

1894.

At the first meeting of the Trustees for the year a case of some interest, and one which created no little amusement, was brought before the Board. A member of Parliament and an ex-Minister of the Crown was reading in the Library, and as the weather was warm he took off his coat. An Attendant spoke to him on the matter, but he declined to conform with what was considered an unwritten law of the Institution and wear his coat. The matter was reported to the officer in charge, who pointed out that to preserve a necessary decorum in the Library it was not thought advisable that visitors should appear in their shirt sleeves. The member declined to put on his coat, and gave his name. The officer was adamant, and said that he considered that a member of Parliament should support the members of the staff in carrying out the rules. Persuasion, however, was useless, and finally the angry member was given the option of wearing his coat or leaving the Library. He left the Library, and learning that there was a meeting of the

Trustees at the time, he asked to be allowed to submit the matter for their decision, not claiming privilege in his own favour, but contending that in a democratic community neither he nor any one else should be excluded from the Library for divesting himself of his coat. A personal interview with the Trustees followed, but they were not convinced, and resolved to support their officer and adhere to the existing practice.

In January it was decided, on the recommendation of the Director, to place £100 at the disposal of Mr. Joseph Pennell for the purchase of examples of "black and white" work.

The Hon. W. A. Zeal, President of the Legislative Council, and the Hon. Thomas Bent, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, were appointed Trustees in May.

In February the Director of the National Gallery, Mr. Bernard Hall, wrote to the Trustees that, as the Institution was suffering from want of funds, it would give people new pictures to look at, and would arouse interest in the Gallery, if, from time to time, an interchange of pictures on loan were made between the Galleries of the different colonies. The suggestion was approved by the Trustees, and negotiations were entered with the Sydney and Adelaide Galleries. The proposal met with support from both of the governing bodies of these Galleries, and arrangements were made for a series of exchanges, the first of which was carried out in August.

It was arranged that the sum of £1,000, which had been set aside for the purchase of specimens of Ceramic Art for the Verdon Gallery, should be placed at the disposal of Sir George Verdon, who was about to visit England. On his arrival in London, however, Sir George Verdon recommended that £500 of this money be spent on a picture of the interior of the Church of St. Anne, Bruges, by David Roberts, and the Trustees agreed to this proposal.

In August Mr. J. S. Battye, an assistant on the cataloguing staff, was appointed Librarian of the Public Library of Western Australia, and resigned his position in the Library.



Mr. John Longstaff completed his original picture, "The Sirens," painted under the terms of the Travelling Scholarship awarded in 1887, and exhibited it at the Royal Academy and the Salon, afterwards sending it to the Trustees, by whom it was received at the end of the year.

The following pictures were bought in November at the Victorian Artists' Exhibition, viz.:—"Autumn in the Fitzroy Gardens," by J. Mather; "Feeding Time," by F. McCubbin; "Moonrise," by D. Davies; and "A Bright Winter's Morning," by W. Withers.

In November it was resolved, on the motion of Dr. Leeper, "That in view of the great advantage likely to accrue to the Public Libraries of Australasia, it is desirable that the Trustees take steps towards the foundation of a Library Association of Australasia, on lines generally similar to those of the Library Association of the United Kingdom and the American Library Association."

1895.

In April Dr. Bride, who had been Librarian since 1881, was appointed to the position of Curator of Estates of Deceased Persons. Mr. Michael Francis Dowden, LL.B., the second principal assistant in the Library, was appointed Librarian in succession to Dr. Bride, without increase in salary. The drastic retrenchment of the day made it necessary to reduce all the heads of the departments, and it was only by the strictest economy that the Trustees were able to meet the current expenses of the Institution.

Mr. J. Cosmo Newbery died on the 1st of May, and Mr. R. H. Walcott, Mineralogist, was appointed acting Curator of the Industrial and Technological Museum, in addition to his duties as Mineralogist.

The Hon. F. S. Dobson died on the 1st of June, and the Hon. W. M. K. Vale died on the 23rd of October. Professor Walter Baldwin Spencer and Mr. Frederick H. Bromley, M.L.A., were appointed Trustees in June and November respectively.

Several pictures were obtained during the year from the Victorian Artists' Society, and the picture by Mr. W.

Withers, "A Bright Winter's Morning," was exchanged for a more important work by the same artist, entitled "Tranquil Winter." A picture by Mr. Aby Altson, painted under the terms of the Travelling Scholarship awarded in 1890, entitled "The Golden Age," was received in July.

Mr. Purdon Clarke, of the South Kensington Museum, assisted the Trustees in obtaining specimens of furniture, carved wood, wrought metals, etc., for the Art Museum; and Sir Wollaston Franks, of the British Museum, aided them in obtaining a valuable collection of prehistoric implements.

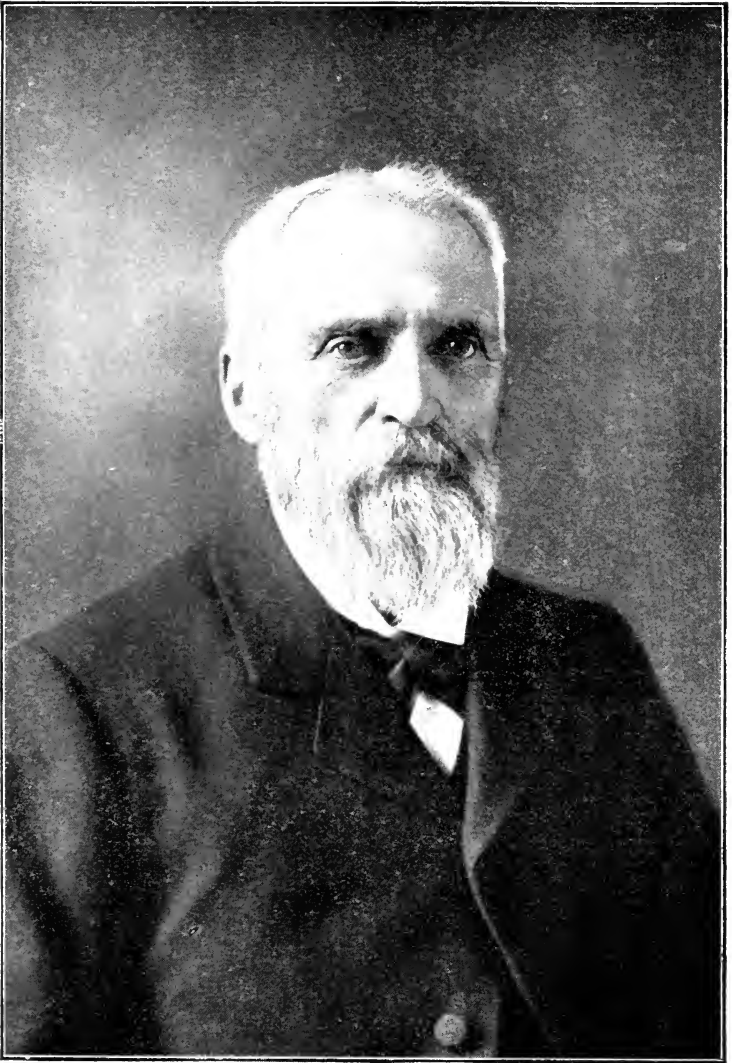
In September it was decided, on the recommendation of the Librarian, to extend the hours for opening the Lending Library. It had been open from 2 p.m. till 8 p.m., but it was decided to open in future from 12 noon till 8 p.m.

In December the Trustees received, on loan to the National Gallery, a valuable collection of pictures belonging to the Governor, Lord Brassey.

#### 1896.

On the 13th of February Mr. Dowden died, after having held office as Librarian for a few months only. The Trustees requested that Dr. Bride should be re-transferred to his former position as Librarian, and negotiations on this matter proceeded for some months. The Public Service Commissioners finally decided not to transfer Dr. Bride, and Mr. E. L. Armstrong, the present Librarian, was formally appointed to the position on the 29th of August.

Mr. Dowden had been actively engaged at the time of his death in initiating the formation of the Library Association of Australasia, and this work was taken up by his successor, by direction of the Trustees. It was decided to hold an Intercolonial Library Conference in Melbourne on the 21st, 22nd, 23rd, and 24th of April, to settle the lines upon which the Association should be formed. The Trustees decided to give a *conversazione* in the National Gallery to welcome the visitors and open the proceedings. Arrangements were made for holding a Loan Exhibition of rare books, manuscripts, and other suitable objects. His



THE HON. EDWARD LANGTON.



Excellency Lord Brassey accepted the position of patron of the conference, and Sir John Madden, Chief Justice of Victoria, was elected President. About 600 guests, including 80 Librarians and delegates, attended the opening conversazione in the National Gallery, when Sir John Madden delivered the inaugural address. At a later meeting a constitution was drawn up and accepted, and it was decided to hold an annual meeting of the Association, and that the next congress should be held in Sydney.

A marble bust by Percival Ball of Mr. Cosmo Newbery, the late Superintendent of the Technological Museum, was presented to the Trustees in February by Sir John Madden, on behalf of the friends and admirers of Mr. Newbery.

Sir George Verdon, who had been a Trustee since 1872, and President since 1883, died on the 12th of September. The Honourable Edward Langton was elected President in October, and at the same time Professor Morris was elected Vice-President. The Hon. A. L. Tucker was appointed a Trustee in October.

The retrenchment of the period was telling heavily against the Library. Only sufficient money to pay for current periodicals and existing orders was voted by Parliament. For the first time in the history of the Institution no money was voted for new books, and the grant for contingencies was the smallest since the opening of the Library in 1856. There was a noticeable decrease in the visitors to the Library, and had it not been for a small sum of money standing to the credit of the Trustees in London, practically no new books could have been purchased for the Library. This year and the lean years to follow left gaps in the collection, which have been most difficult to fill.

The only picture purchased for the Gallery during the year was one by Arthur Streeton, representing a view on the Hawkesbury River. It was entitled "The Purple Noon's Transparent Might."

A School of Applied Art was opened in August, under the charge of Mr. Guyon Purchas.

The Travelling Scholarship was awarded in December to Mr. George Coates for a picture entitled "At Last."

1897.

A portrait of Mr. R. L. J. Ellery, painted to the order of his friends and admirers by E. Phillips Fox, was presented to the Trustees in February, and in the following month they received in a similar way a portrait of Sir Frederick Sargood by the same artist.

The Hon. C. J. Ham resigned his office as Trustee in May, and in the same month Professor Tucker and Mr. R. Murray Smith, C.M.G., were appointed members of the Board.

On the 19th of June the "Diamond Jubilee Loan Exhibition of Works of Art," inaugurated by the Trustees, in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the accession of Queen Victoria, was opened in the McArthur Gallery by Lord Brassey. Her Majesty was pleased to lend for the occasion a painting, entitled "The Marriage of the Princess Royal," by J. Phillip, R.A., and notable contributions were also received from the Governor, Lord Brassey, from Messrs. H. Graves and Co., and from the Ballarat and Bendigo Art Galleries, as well as from many leading citizens of Melbourne. The Exhibition was opened at a *conversazione* in the Art Galleries on the evening of the 19th of June, and remained open till the 4th of September. A *conversazione* for working men and their friends was also held on the 5th of July in connection with the Exhibition.

The Industrial and Technological Museum was crowded with a number of unsuitable exhibits, and it was decided to dispense with these, to make room for more desirable objects. Some were accordingly presented to the Working Men's College, some were sold, and it was decided that objects on loan should either be presented to the Trustees or removed.

During the year the Government considered the advisability of establishing a Commercial Bureau, with the object of collecting and making available the latest information of all kinds relating to home and foreign manufactures. The Trustees offered to co-operate by allowing the use of the Technological Museum for the Exhibition of raw material, but the establishment of the Bureau was not carried out.

The exchange of pictures on loan between the different colonies was discontinued in September. Since the adoption of the scheme, in 1894, 46 oil paintings and 14 water colour drawings had been exhibited in Melbourne, as loans from the Art Galleries of Sydney and Adelaide.

Mr. Guyon Purchas resigned his position as Instructor in the Applied Art Class, which was consequently discontinued.

1898.

The Library was still suffering from the drastic retrenchment of the period, but a small grant was made for the purchase of books, practically the first for three years. The Trustees waited upon the Chief Secretary and Treasurer in the middle of the year, and made a strong appeal in regard to the difficulties of carrying on the Institution in a satisfactory manner on the reduced votes. They pointed out that no pictures could be bought, that the supply of books was totally inadequate, and that every branch of the Institution was suffering severely from the long continued retrenchment. An increase in the votes resulted, and the acute strain of carrying on the Institution on inadequate grants was relieved, though rigid economy was still insisted upon.

Dr. Ferdinando Gagliardi, who had been for some years Principal Assistant in the Reference Library, died on the 7th of August. He had carried out the greater part of the reclassification of the Library on its present basis.

The Rules of the Institution were revised and amended towards the end of the year, the most important alteration being one that allowed Students outside the National Gallery, under certain conditions, to compete for the Travelling Scholarship. The Building and General Committee was abolished under the new rules.

Several pictures by Victorian artists (Messrs. Withers, Mather, Boyd, Loureiro, Streeton, Fox, McCubbin, and Davies) were lent from the National Gallery to the Exhibition of Australian Art, held in London in May and June, under the auspices of the Trustees of the National Art Gallery of New South Wales.

An Enquiry Room and offices for the Principal Assistant and the head of the cataloguing staff were formed opposite to the main entrance to the Reading Room, in order to centralize the work of the staff as much as possible.

Alterations were made in the buildings in order to lessen the danger from fire. The wooden building covering the staircase to the Library was rebuilt in brick, and shut off from the Rotunda by double iron doors. Iron shutters were also introduced where necessary.

The works of sculpture, which had been exhibited in the Rotunda, were distributed throughout the building, and the Rotunda was made available for Library purposes.

The McArthur Gallery was lent to the Victorian Artists' Society for their Annual Exhibition, which opened in October.

A special grant was made by the Government, at the request of the President, Mr. Langton, for the purchase of Mr. Longstaff's painting of the Bush Fires in Gippsland in 1898.

A collection of "Letters from Victorian Pioneers," which had been in print for some years, but which, for various reasons, had not been published, was finally prepared for publication and indexed during the year, but was not issued to the public till the following year, owing to a delay in binding. The letters, which had been edited by Dr. Bride when Librarian, were originally addressed to Mr. Latrobe, the first Governor of Victoria, by whom the manuscripts were presented to the Trustees.

1899.

The Government having promised some money to the Trustees for building purposes, it was decided to proceed with the completion of the south-west corner front of the Library, and R. Gamlin's tender for £6,044 was accepted. As the Government wished to have this building completed in Stawell stone, the amount was afterwards increased to £6,999. The Trustees also considered the advisability of extending the National Museum building at the University, in accordance with the repeated requests of Sir Frederick



McCoy. It was decided, however, that the contents of the Museum should be transferred to the Public Library buildings.

Sir Frederick McCoy died on the 13th of May. He had held office as Director of the Museum since 1856, and had obtained a very extensive and valuable collection of Natural History exhibits during his long period of office. Professor Spencer, Chairman of the National Museum Committee, volunteered to act as the Director of the Museum in an honorary capacity, and his offer was gratefully accepted by the Trustees and by the Government. It was decided to transfer the specimens from the University to the large hall at the Library Buildings, then used for an Industrial and Technological Museum. The Geological collection in the latter Exhibition was made part of the National Museum collection, and it was decided to find room for the best of the other exhibits from the Technological Museum in a room to be built off the Verdon Gallery. The useless exhibits were to be sold, and the remainder, for which no room could be found, were to be stored in the vaults.

The old Technological Museum building behind the Library, formerly known as the "Great Hall," was condemned by the Trustees as unsafe in itself, and as a menace to the whole Institution in case of fire. It was accordingly decided to demolish the building, and to rebuild temporarily rooms at the north and south ends to accommodate the Lending Library, and, as far as possible, the contents of the Technological Museum.

It was proposed by the Trustees that the mineral collection in the Exhibition Building should be transferred to and made part of the collection in the National Museum, but the Minister of Mines, to whose Department the specimens in the Exhibition Building belonged, would not sanction the transfer.

The Lending Library was closed from March to July, pending the alterations in the buildings, and the books were temporarily stored in the Rotunda. Up to this time the collection had not been classified, and the indicator system had been used. The Librarian arranged to abolish

this system, and to give the borrowers access to the shelves, as in the Reference Department. The books were classified under the Dewey Decimal System by Mr. R. D. Boys, who had been placed in charge of the Lending Library. The new system was found to be entirely satisfactory, and in a little over five months there were 5,560 borrowers on the roll, and nearly 60,000 volumes were issued during the same period. After the books from the Lending Library were placed in the new temporary building, the Rotunda was fitted as a store room for the surplus books from the Reference Library, and the Librarian was thus enabled to collect into one room the books which had been "stored" in different places. The Specifications of Patents were placed round the walls of the Rotunda, and the corridor on the east side was used for Parliamentary Papers.

Mr. Andrew Burns lent to the Trustees a large collection of pictures, which were exhibited in the Buvelot Gallery.

The Travelling Scholarship was awarded to Mr. D. M. Meldrum for his picture "Welcome News."

The hall on the north side of the main entrance, previously used for the exhibition of casts and sculpture, was fitted up as an Australian Ethnological Museum. A fine collection of exhibits from Central Australia was purchased from Mr. F. J. Gillen, by means of a special grant of £300 from the Government for the purpose. The whole of the Ethnological exhibits, which had previously been attached to the Technological Museum, were made part of the Natural History collection.

The tender of Messrs. Christopherson and Brown for the New Museum Buildings in Russell Street was accepted in September. The amount was £17,989, and a proviso was inserted that the work could be stopped at any stage by the Trustees, in the event of money not being provided by the Government.

As an additional safeguard in case of fire, and in order to give the watchmen ready access to different parts of the building, all doors were fitted with special locks, answering to one master key.

A conversazione was held in the Picture Galleries and

Museum on the evening of the 19th of December, to celebrate the opening of the Students' Exhibition, and the opening of the new Natural History Museum. An address was delivered by the President, and the Museum was formally opened by His Excellency Lord Brassey.

1900.

The Trustees entertained the members of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science at a conversation in the National Gallery and Museum, on the evening of the 13th of January.

Madame Melba, the famous Prima Donna, presented, in January, a marble bust of herself by Mr. E. Bertram Mackennal.

A new system of record was introduced into the Reference Library during this year. The stock books hitherto in use were discontinued, and accession books were used in their stead. Under this system better details can be obtained about any book in the Library, and the statistical information is much more accurate than formerly.

In February the picture "Quatre Bras," by Lady Butler, was sent to London to the Guildhall Loan Exhibition. It was returned to the Gallery in September.

The Railway Commissioners arranged to supply the electric light to the Public Library from the Government plant at Spencer Street, from the 19th of March.

The Museum Building at the University was handed over to the Government, and used later by the University for the Conservatorium of Music.

The National Museum was closed to the public from the 1st of February to the 20th of July for purposes of re-arrangement. Professor Spencer had the specimens re-classified on a zoological basis, instead of the geographical classification previously in use.

A deputation of the Trustees of the Public Library, the Council of the Working Men's College, and others, waited upon the Minister of Public Works in August to protest against the proposal to erect a new Police Court at the corner of Latrobe Street and Russell Street, as the site was

required for a Technological Museum, or for some purpose connected with technical education.

An electrical apparatus for marking the times at which the watchmen patrolled the buildings was installed in November, and about the same time a system of internal telephones was introduced for communication between different portions of the Library and other branches of the Institution.

The principal additions to the National Gallery during the year were a picture by Miss Lucy E. Kemp Welch, "Horses Bathing in the Sea," selected for the Trustees by the Council of the Royal Academy, and "A Bush Symphony," by Mr. J. Ford Paterson. Mr. McCubbin's picture, "Feeding Time," was exchanged for another work by the same artist, entitled "A Winter Evening."

The Public Service Reclassification Board, after correspondence and consultation with the Trustees, reclassified several offices, and the changes were brought into effect in December. The office of Librarian was placed in the "A" division of the Public Service under the style of Chief Librarian and Secretary. The former office of Sub-Librarian was revived, and Mr. A. W. Brazier, M.A., was promoted to this position. Mr. R. D. Boys, B.A., and Mr. J. M. Kerr, M.A., LL.B., were made Senior Assistants, the former being placed in charge of the Lending Library, and the latter officer taking the direction of the cataloguing staff. Mr. R. H. Walcott, F.G.S., who had been acting as Curator of the Industrial and Technological Museum since Mr. Newbery's death, was formally appointed to that position in May, and was also made Curator of the Geological and Mineralogical collections, which had been transferred to the National Museum (Natural History). Mr. James A. Kershaw, F.E.S., was appointed Curator of the Zoological collection.

1901.

Early in the year some works of Mr. Bertram Mackennal were lent for exhibition in the National Gallery, amongst them being a model of his statue "Circe," for which an offer

was made by the Trustees and accepted by Mr. Mackennal. A higher offer, however, was made to Mr. Mackennal before the transaction was concluded, and the statue was not obtained for the National Gallery.

The Institution was specially illuminated from the 6th of May to the 11th of May, in connection with the celebrations for the opening of the first Commonwealth Parliament, and the visit of their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York.

In July a Sub-Committee of the Trustees recommended that the Chamber of Manufactures and the Chamber of Commerce be asked whether they would join in raising £5,000 towards the establishment of a new Technological Museum, and that the Government be asked to provide a similar sum, and to grant a site for a new building at the corner of Russell Street and Latrobe Street. It was decided to postpone further consideration of the matter until the central portion of the new National Museum was completed.

Application was made to the Government for sufficient money to complete the central block of the Natural History Museum in Russell Street, but the requisite sum was not provided and the building had to be discontinued, although the outer walls were completed to the top of the first floor.

Professor Spencer was absent for most of the year on a scientific expedition, mainly of an anthropological nature, into the centre and north of Australia. As a result of this expedition, the Museum was enriched with a very valuable collection of ethnological exhibits, presented by Professor Spencer and Mr. F. J. Gillen.

Leave of absence for seven months was granted to Professor Morris in September, to enable him to visit Europe, and Mr. H. G. Turner was appointed Acting Vice-President during his absence.

On the evening of the 14th of November a hail storm of exceptional violence broke over Melbourne. The skylights in the Queen's Reading Room were broken in many places and the Library was partially flooded. The Library staff, with the assistance of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, managed to erect a temporary screen of canvas over the skylights,

before any serious damage was done to the books or furniture.

"The Vision of St. Stanislaus," by Senhor Loureiro, and a picture by Mr. James Quinn, "The Nativity," painted under the terms of the Travelling Scholarship awarded in 1893, were the only oil paintings added to the collection during the year. Ten water-colour drawings were selected for the Trustees by the Council of the Royal Academy, when acting as a Committee of the Chantrey Bequest.

Mr. A. C. Gow, R.A., the painter of "No Surrender," personally undertook the restoration of the picture, which had become badly cracked, and it was accordingly sent to him, and was returned to the Trustees in November.

Mr. Graham Officer, B.Sc., visited the Solomon Islands in the early part of the year, and remained till August in the interests of the Trustees. He obtained a very valuable collection of ethnographic exhibits, including an exceptionally fine head hunter's canoe from Rubiana.

Two commissions were given for pictures under the terms of the Gilbee Bequest. Dr. Gilbee had left a sum of £1,000 to the Trustees for the purpose of obtaining an Australian historical picture, the subject to be selected from the Burke and Wills exploring expedition, or Captain Cook's visit to Australia. A considerable amount of interest had accumulated, and the Trustees, with the consent of the residuary legatees, decided to give two commissions instead of one. Mr. John Longstaff and Mr. E. P. Fox were accordingly given commissions in April, and it was arranged that the former should paint a scene from the Burke and Wills expedition, and the latter from the visit of Captain Cook.

1902.

Professor Morris, who was travelling in England, died on the 2nd of January. He had been a Trustee since 1879 and Vice-President since 1896.

There were many changes amongst the Trustees during this year. Mr. Henry Gyles Turner was elected Vice-President in February, in succession to Professor Morris. The Hon. A. L. Tucker, who had been a Trustee since 1896,

died on the 8th of May. Mr. A. S. Way, who had ceased to reside in the colony for some years, and Mr. Andrew Harper, who had accepted an appointment as Principal of St. Andrews Presbyterian College in Sydney, resigned their offices in April. The Hon. Sir Henry Wrixon, President of the Legislative Council, and the Rev. E. H. Sugden, Master of Queen's College, were gazetted as Trustees on the 4th of June. The resignation of Sir Charles Gavan Duffy, who had been absent from the State for some years, was accepted on the 8th of July. Mr. Justice a'Beckett, Mr. Edward Carlile, K.C., and the President of the Victorian Artists' Society for the time being, were gazetted as Trustees on the 16th of July. The latter office was held by Mr. J. Ford Paterson at the time, but shortly afterwards Mr. McCubbin, a salaried officer of the institution, was elected as President of the Association, in succession to Mr. Paterson. Apart from this fact there was some doubt as to the validity of a merely *ex-officio* appointment. Neither Mr. Paterson nor Mr. McCubbin was summoned to the Board's meetings, and in the following year the matter was settled by gazetting Mr. Paterson a Trustee for life, in the usual manner.

The new catalogue of the Lending Library, containing over 600 pages, was issued early in the year. The Library contained over 17,000 volumes, which were catalogued, briefly, on the dictionary plan.

Mr. Frederick Chapman, who had been selected in London to fill the office of Palæontologist in the National Museum, arrived in Melbourne, and took up the duties of the office in March.

The picture of "The Landing of Captain Cook," painted by Mr. E. P. Fox, under the terms of the Gilbee Bequest, was received during the year. Mr. T. W. Stanford presented a landscape by Louis Buvelot, entitled "Between Tallarook and Yea."

The Travelling Scholarship was awarded to Mr. M. Altson for a picture, entitled "The Leisure Hour."

The Library Association of Australasia held its third meeting (exclusive of the initial meeting) in Melbourne, in

the first week in April. All the Federal States were represented, and a Loan Exhibition of rare books, manuscripts, and literary curios was held in the McArthur Gallery. The Exhibition was opened at a *conversazione* given by the Trustees on the 2nd of April, and Her Excellency the Countess of Hopetoun performed the opening ceremony, in the unavoidable absence of the Governor-General. The meetings of the Association were not so well attended as was hoped, and doubt was expressed as to whether it would be possible to carry on the Association until the country was more populated.

In July, Mr. J. M. Kerr, M.A., LL.B., one of the senior assistants in the Reference Library, and head of the cataloguing staff, resigned his office, in order to follow his profession as a solicitor.

The turnstiles for recording the number of visitors to the Institution were taken away from the main entrance in September, as it was feared that they would seriously retard free egress from the building in any emergency.

A remarkable series of thefts of a number of recent law books, to the value of about £50, was reported by the Librarian in December. The matter was placed in the hands of the police, but they were not successful in tracing the thief.

### 1903.

Mr. L. Bernard Hall, Director of the National Gallery, was given leave of absence during the first term of the year, on account of ill-health. Mr. F. McCubbin acted as Director during his absence, and Mr. George Bell assisted Mr. McCubbin in the Drawing School.

Mr. John Ford Paterson, formerly President of the Victorian Artists' Society, was appointed a Trustee in February. Professor Irving, who had been a Trustee since 1871, resigned in May, as he had ceased to reside in Victoria. Professor Tucker resigned from the Board in June, and in July Lieut.-Col. W. T. Reay, sub-editor of "The Herald," and Dr. A. S. Joske, were appointed members of the Trust.



During the year the Trustees devoted much consideration to the question of the exclusion of undesirable visitors, and they almost decided to introduce a system by which all readers desiring access to the shelves, would have to obtain a pass for the purpose. It was felt, however, that such a system would be burdensome to many readers, and that it would tend to keep away a certain number, who would otherwise make good use of the Library. It was decided, therefore, not to restrict the freedom of readers, but to insist upon the withdrawal of any really objectionable visitors.

In April the Trustees were informed that James McAllan, of Richmond, had bequeathed his residuary estate to the Trustees. It is anticipated that eventually the Trustees will obtain about £20,000 from this generous bequest.

It was suggested to the Trustees of the Exhibition Building that space should be found by them for the exhibits of the Industrial and Technological Museum, until such time as the Government could provide proper accommodation for the Museum. The Exhibition authorities, however, stated that no satisfactory space could be lent to the Trustees for the purpose.

In November the Trustees received, by bequest from the late George McArthur, of Maldon, a valuable collection of coins, tokens, badges, and medals.

In December an Act was passed, further amending the Libraries Act, 1890. The number of future Trustees was limited to eighteen, instead of an indeterminate number, and it was provided that any Trustee being absent without leave from all general meetings of the Trustees for four consecutive months should forfeit his office.

1904.

Sir Graham Berry, who had been a member of the Board of Trustees since 1884, died on the 25th of January.

Mr. Alfred Felton, a Melbourne merchant, who died on the 8th of January, left his estate in trust, and provided that the income, subject to some small annuities, should be equally divided between gifts to charities and the purchase

of works of art for the National Gallery. Eventually, it is anticipated that the National Gallery will benefit to the extent of between eight and ten thousand pounds per annum from this source. This munificent bequest will practically relieve the Government from the responsibility of providing funds for the purchase of pictures and other works of art, and it is hoped that it will soon enable the Trustees to place the National Gallery of Victoria amongst modern Galleries of the first rank in the world of art. A committee of five gentlemen, of whom one was to be a Trustee of the National Gallery, with provision for the appointment of their successors, was appointed under the will, to arrange for the distribution of the money available for charitable purposes, and, in conjunction with the Trustees, to draw up a scheme for the purchase of works of art for the National Gallery. Mr. Felton also left the Trustees the right of selecting, from his own collection, any pictures or art objects that might be thought suitable for the Gallery, and twenty-six pictures were accordingly chosen, in addition to some carvings and other works of art.

A picture by Mr. George Coates, entitled "Motherhood," painted under the terms of the Travelling Scholarship awarded in 1896, was received in February.

Miss A. M. Sharp, the well known authority and writer on lace work, owing to the good offices of Mr. Bernard Hall, obtained for the Trustees an excellent sample collection of antique and modern lace. Miss Sharp also very generously supervised the proper mounting and description of the pieces in the collection.

The Government provided money for the continuation of the central block of the Museum Buildings, in Russell Street, and the tender of Mr. W. P. Christopherson, to continue the work, was accepted on the 30th of June.

On the 22nd of September the Legislative Assembly passed a resolution in favour of opening the Institution for certain hours on Sunday afternoons, and on the 2nd of November the Legislative Council passed a Bill approving of the necessary expenditure for the purpose. The Picture Galleries and Museums were accordingly opened on Sunday,

the 13th of November, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. On Sunday, the 27th of November, the Reference Library was also opened during the same hours.

On the 22nd of September a deputation of the Trustees of the Public Library, the Council of the Working Men's College, and others interested in the matter, waited upon the Premier, and urged that the site of the Police Court, at the corner of Russell Street and Latrobe Street, be set apart for the erection of a Technological Museum, instead of being used for a new Police Court and cells, as had been proposed. Mr. Bent promised to go into the matter further, and said that in the meantime he would postpone the question of building on the site.

On the 9th of November it was resolved that it would be advisable to send the Director of the National Gallery to England, to get into touch with experts, who would be willing to assist the Trustees in purchasing works under the Felton Bequest, and to take steps to inaugurate a comprehensive scheme for such purchases. Any persons likely to assist were to be informed of the aspirations and needs of the Gallery, and the desires of the Trustees with regard to carrying out the terms of the Bequest. On the 23rd of November a consultation was held between the Trustees and the Felton Bequests Committee, and the latter body approved of the suggestion that some one should be sent to Europe, for the purpose of making initial arrangements. It was then arranged that Mr. Bernard Hall should visit Europe, and be empowered to purchase works of art to the amount of £4,000.

1905.

In February the tender of Messrs. Paterson Brothers, for cleaning and decorating the Queen's Reading Room and the Barry Hall, was accepted. The Queen's Room had not been painted nor decorated for many years, and the Barry Hall had remained untouched since its completion in 1886.

In March the Librarian recommended, as the most fitting way to celebrate the Jubilee of the Institution, that a new Library be erected, as the existing building was unsuitable,

and not large enough to accommodate the books. The recommendation was favourably received by the Trustees, and sketch plans were prepared for a great octagonal building, to contain over a million volumes, and to provide accommodation for 500 readers in the main hall. It was estimated that this room, without the front in Latrobe Street, could be erected for about £70,000, and a deputation of the Trustees waited upon the Premier on the 12th of May, and asked that this sum be voted in three yearly instalments. The Premier undertook to bring the matter before the Cabinet, but no grant was made for the purpose during the year.

Mr. W. B. Tappin, of the firm of Reed, Smart and Tappin, architects to the Trustees, died in April.

In July Mr. Bernard Hall, Director of the National Gallery, submitted a report on the result of his visit to Europe, in connection with the purchase of works of art under the terms of the Felton Bequest. He had consulted many people interested in art matters, and he made recommendations to the Trustees as to the future purchases for the Gallery. He recommended them to endeavour to obtain the advice of the South Kensington Museum authorities and Mr. H. Wilson, for purchases of works of art in England, other than pictures and sculpture. For the purchase of paintings, he suggested that Mr. Clausen, A.R.A., be asked to act for the Trustees, and that Mr. Pennell be asked to advise them in the purchase of "black and white" work. M. Marquet de Vasselot, of the Louvre, was recommended by Mr. Hall as an expert, who would be able to render valuable aid to the Trustees in the purchase of art objects in Paris. The Director reported that he had obtained the following pictures during his visit, viz. :—

#### Oil Paintings.

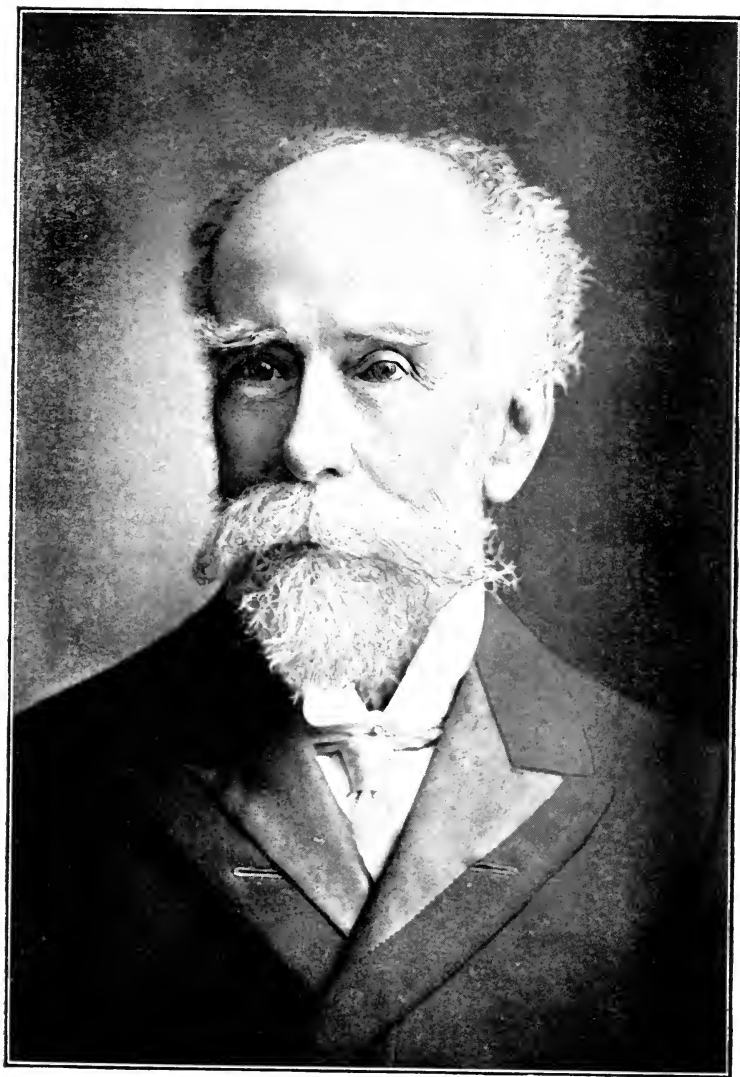
"Boulevard Montmartre," by Pissarro.

"The Ploughmen's Breakfast," by Clausen.

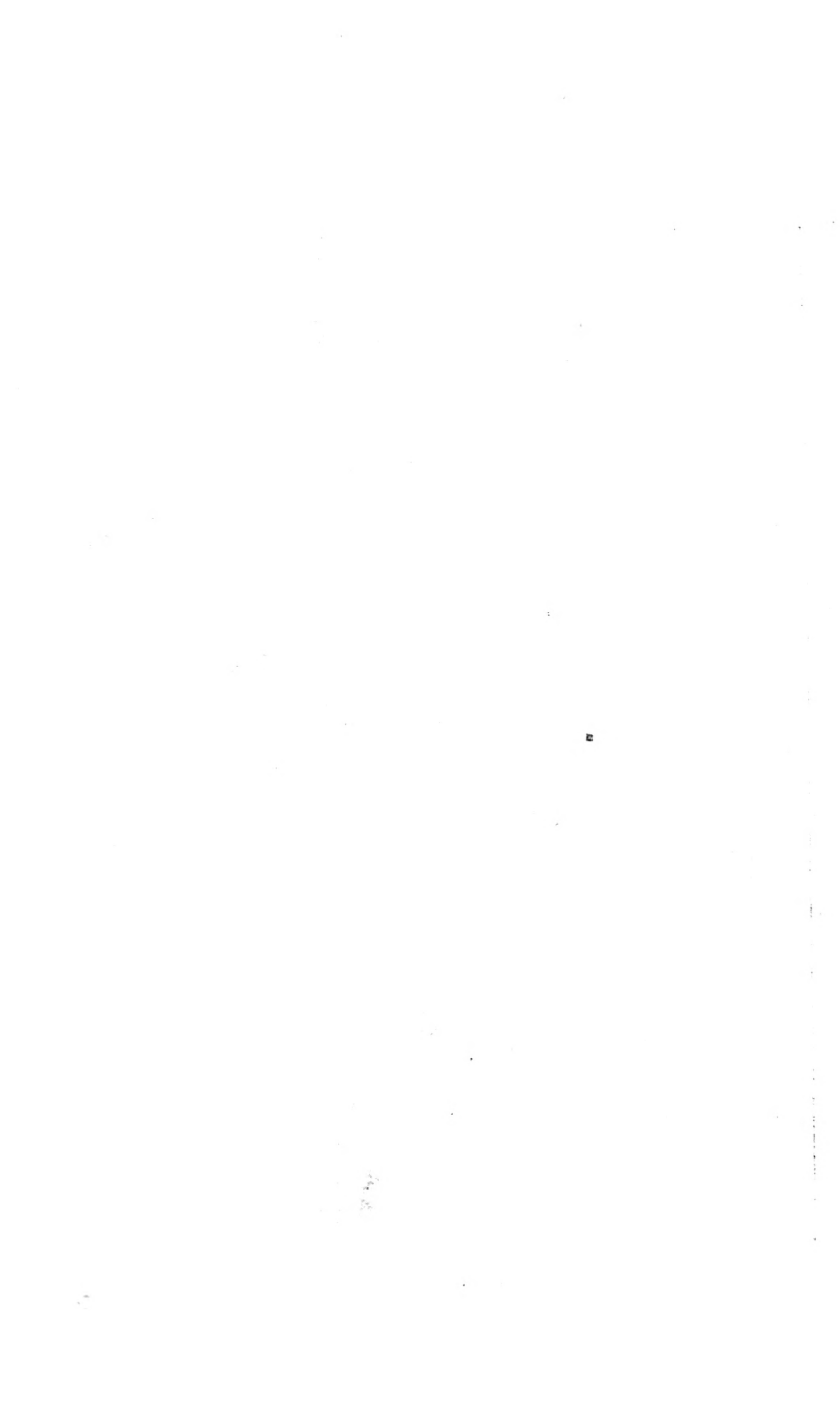
"The Importunate Neighbour," by Holman Hunt.

"L' Aumône," by Meissonier.

"Prière dans la Chapelle," by Eugène Isabey.



HENRY GYLES TURNER.



"La Femme Couchée," by Aman-Jean.

Water Colour Drawings.

"Okehampton Castle," by J. M. W. Turner.

"The Entombment," by Ford Madox Brown.

"Haidee," by Ford Madox Brown,

and others by D. Cox, Varley, Stanfield, and Tom Collier.

#### Statuary.

"Perseus Arming," by Gilbert.

"Fisherman's Head," by Gilbert.

"Minerve Sans Casque," by Rodin.

"Jean Paul Laurens," by Rodin.

Two animal groups in bronze by Barye.

Mr. Hall also purchased pen and ink drawings by Charles Keene, E. J. Sullivan, Daniel Vierge, Pegram, Townsend, and Arthur Rackham, and three engravings by Swain, Thoneman, and Tim Cole.

Mr. Hall was thanked for his report, and earnest consideration was given to his recommendations during the year, both by the Trustees and the members of the Felton Bequests Committee, with a view to formulating a scheme for carrying out the terms of the bequest.

The Honourable Edward Langton, who had been a Trustee for more than thirty years, and who had been President of the Board since 1896, died on the 5th of October. Mr. Henry Gyles Turner was elected President, in succession to Mr. Langton, and Sir Henry Wrixon was elected Vice-President in place of Mr. Turner. Mr. John Mather was appointed to represent the Trustees on the Felton Bequests Committee, in place of Mr. Langton.

Sir Bryan O'Loughlen, Bart., who had been a member of the Board since 1882, died on the 31st of October.

The Trustees received, by bequest from Lady McCulloch, a marble bust of Sir James McCulloch, and an oil painting by C. R. Leslie, entitled "Christ's Lesson in Humility." The residuary legatees of Lady McCulloch's estate presented an oil painting by W. C. Thomas, "Canute Listening to the Monks of Ely." From an anonymous donor the Trustees

received a picture by St. George Hare, entitled "The Victory of Faith." Mr. C. Fairfax Murray presented, through the Director, a copy of Rossetti's "Proserpine"; and Mrs. Edwards presented, in a similar way, a painting by Edwin Edwards, entitled "Southwold." A portrait of the late Alfred Felton, by Mr. J. C. Waite, was purchased in November.

The Travelling Scholarship was awarded to Mr. Isaac Cohen for a picture, entitled "Reconciliation."

1906.

In February the Right Honourable Charles Booth lent, for exhibition in the Gallery, a picture by Holman Hunt, entitled "The Light of the World." It was hung in the Stawell Gallery for about a month, and it was estimated that nearly 200,000 persons visited the Gallery for the purpose of seeing this picture.

A picture by Hans Heysen, entitled "Sunshine and Shadow," was purchased in February, under the terms of the Felton Bequest.

The central block of the New Museum Buildings in Russell Street was completed, and possession given to the Trustees about the end of March. The first floor is to be entirely devoted to the Australian collections, which are to be made a special feature of the Museum. The staff is at present busily engaged in transferring exhibits from the Main Hall of the Museum and from the stores and vaults. The extra accommodation has already enabled the Director to make notable improvements in the arrangement of the specimens.

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In the course of fifty years the Institution has grown from a small block about 50 feet square until its buildings cover more than two acres of land. There is still room on the site for the new Library, and the whole of the Latrobe Street front has yet to be built, but the time is not very distant when more land will be needed, if the Institution is to fulfil its purpose. The princely bequest of Alfred Felton has relieved the Government for all time from the



necessity of purchasing works of art for the nation, and it will be for future generations to see that the gifts provided by his munificence are suitably housed. Moreover, the time cannot be far off when the people of Victoria will insist upon having a properly equipped Industrial Museum. There is a probability that the Melbourne Hospital will some day be moved from its present position, and there is still unused Crown land about the Police Court site. Would it not be well to consider very seriously whether some, at least, of these lands should not be devoted to the future requirements of an Institution, which must year by year become a greater heritage, and one which will be more and more valued by the people of Victoria.

# NOTES ON PAST OFFICE-BEARERS AND OFFICERS

PROMINENTLY CONNECTED WITH THE

## PUBLIC LIBRARY, MUSEUMS. AND NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA.

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### SIR REDMOND BARRY.\*

The name of Sir Redmond Barry will be for ever associated with the Public Library of Victoria and the University of Melbourne. He has been accepted as the founder of both institutions, and was the first President of the Library Trustees, and the first Chancellor of the University. It is probable, however, that the original suggestion for the establishment of these institutions did not emanate from Sir Redmond. Mr. H. C. E. Childers, who was a Minister of the Crown in the early years of the colony of Victoria, states that he proposed to Mr. Latrobe to found the Public Library, and to make Barry the Senior Trustee. Rusden, the historian of Australia, thought that the credit of establishing the University belonged more to Governor Latrobe than to Barry. Be these things as they may, they do not alter the fact that Sir Redmond Barry may be regarded as the *de facto* founder of both institutions. He may or may not have been the first to suggest the actual establishment of a University and a Library. He was, at least, the first man to see that such a suggestion bore fruit. His was the mind that planned the way in which each institution was to be built up, and his was the paternal hand that guided both in the struggles of their infancy. With a rare foresight, he saw that in a very few years there would be needed both a Library and a University with an almost infinite capacity for growth.

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\* Partly republished from an article in the "Library Record of Australasia."

He had no idea of establishing an inferior college and dignifying it with the name of University. Rather he would lay the foundations in such a way, that from the first, the education should be, as far as possible, up to the standard of the old world, whilst there would be room for a natural and unlimited expansion. He would have no small site, because of its immediate convenience, but sufficient broad acres to provide for the accommodation that he felt would soon be required. How much the University owes to that statesmanlike view, only those who have closely followed its evolution can tell. The magnificent site, with its forty acres of reserved land, within a mile of the General Post Office, is one of which any city in the world might be proud.

But if the University owes him much, the Public Library owes him still more. As early as 1842, he had established, in a room attached to his own kitchen in a house at the West end of Bourke Street, almost behind Goldsborough's Wool Stores, the first free library in Victoria. It was not a State or a municipal institution, but simply a collection of good standard works belonging to himself, which he made accessible to any inhabitant of the little township. Some ten years later, when the town had grown by leaps and bounds, when the gold fever, with all its attendant evils, was at its height, the Public Library and the University were founded by the wisdom of a few men, who realized that a nation could not live by bread alone, and Sir Redmond Barry at once became the guiding power of both institutions. He was previously a man of note in the little community, in which he had settled as early as 1839. The son of an Irish military man of good family, it was at first intended that he should follow his father's profession. He changed his plans, however, and after graduating at Trinity College he was called to the Irish Bar in 1838. In the following year he emigrated to Sydney, where he remained but a few weeks before crossing over to Melbourne, to begin the practice of his profession in the then struggling little village. In 1841 a Court of Requests was established in Melbourne, over which Mr. E. J. Brewster presided for a few months. He was succeeded by Mr. Barry, who received his first public

appointment, at a salary of £100 a year, as Commissioner of this Court. Barry became Solicitor-General in 1851, and in the following year was made a puisne judge of the Supreme Court. On the 3rd July, 1854, Mr. Justice Barry had the honour of appearing for the first time in his Chancellor's robes, and receiving Sir Charles Hotham in the University grounds, for the purpose of laying the foundation stone of that institution. This ceremony over, the party proceeded to Swanston Street, and after listening to a lengthy address from Dr. Palmer, a co-trustee of Barry's, Sir Charles Hotham laid the foundation stone of the sister institution. In addition to his work at the University and the Library, Sir Redmond Barry was also to the fore in the establishment of a hospital, a Mechanics' Institute, a Royal Society, an exhibition, a philharmonic society, and, in short, in every public movement that would forward the well-being of the colonists. He received the well-merited honour of knighthood in 1860, an honour particularly appropriate, and doubtless highly prized by a man of his temperament. For, in truth, he was by no means averse to the "pomp and circumstance" that have been characteristic of some of our best and greatest men. He was a man of handsome and commanding presence, and wore always the dress of a gentleman of the earlier half of the century. His peculiar "chimney pot" hat, his high collar, and white stock, and, indeed, every item of his dress were part and parcel of the man. He had naturally a pompous manner, and even in his younger days was somewhat grandiose and starched. It is said that he did not succeed so well at the Bar, as he would have done, had he not been so extremely formal and punctilious. He was not regarded as a brilliant or profound lawyer, but some of his addresses were noticeable for their elegant and impassioned, if somewhat ornate, diction. But he was not in favour with the solicitors of the time, and his practice was not so large as that of Williams, Stawell, and others of his contemporaries. Nevertheless, he did good work both at the Bar and on the Bench. He had a high sense of honour, and never spared himself in the performance of his duty. A model of punctuality

himself, he could not brook being delayed by others. If he made an appointment for 10 o'clock, and if the luckless individual with whom the appointment were made happened to be five minutes late, he received from the Judge a reprimand never to be forgotten, and none the less impressive if it were but a pointed glance at the clock.

The Public Library was opened by Major-General McArthur, the Acting-Governor, on the 11th February, 1856. It is reported that owing to the irregular arrival of ships at that time, large quantities of books had not been received as expected, and as the day fixed for the formal ceremony drew near, there was a possibility of opening a library with empty shelves. The anxiously-looked-for vessel arrived at length, but only in time to give Judge Barry and the staff two or three days for unpacking and examining, and for filling the empty shelves. Barry, nothing daunted, set to work, and kept his assistants toiling till midnight, whilst he himself, coatless and very warm, worked with them, and directed all. It was his custom to visit the Library almost daily, and he was invariably present at the unpacking and sorting of the cases as they arrived from London. On the summer mornings he would walk down to the Library, hat and riding whip in hand, looking about with watchful eye, and whistling very softly. Should a blind, carelessly drawn up and out of line, catch his eye, he would call out in no very gentle voice to the nearest attendant "Square the yards, sir; square the yards." He was very punctilious about a visitor wearing his hat or dozing in the reading room, and would personally speak to an offender, or send an attendant to do so. In the early years of the Library, Barry drafted most of the correspondence, and no order for books was sent without his personal inspection. He would leave orders for letters to be sent to him at the Court for signature, and it was sometimes irritating to counsel that he would read these letters whilst nominally listening to their argument. If it were mail day, and the documents to be signed were numerous, he would stop the Court work with a "Pardon me, gentlemen, a matter of importance." It was well known to the members of the

Bar that with him the Library matters were of first importance, and they accepted the fact with good humour. On one occasion, however, Mr. Aspinall stopped in his address whilst Sir Redmond was reading a letter. "Go on, sir; go on," said the Judge, looking up. "Not until your Honour has finished with your Library work," replied the somewhat exasperated counsel, and Sir Redmond took the hint. But the Library was his special hobby, and took precedence at all times

The first Trustees of the Public Library were Mr. Justice Barry, the Hon. W. F. Stawell, the Hon. J. F. Palmer, Mr. H. C. E. Childers, and Mr. D. C. McArthur. These five gentlemen were gazetted on the 19th July. 1853, and managed the affairs of the Institution until the formation of a corporate body of Trustees in 1870, when their number was increased to a minimum of fifteen, and Sir Redmond Barry was elected President. The five original Trustees were all men of mark in the community, but, either because they were too busy, or because they would not brook the arbitrary actions of the senior member of the Board, they left the bulk of the work to Sir Redmond. For it must be admitted that both as Chancellor of the University and as head of the Trustees, Sir Redmond's conduct was decidedly autocratic. It was no unusual thing for him to call a meeting, at which no one attended save himself. But the meeting did not necessarily lapse. What there was to do, he did, quorum or no quorum. Indeed, it is said that what he wanted to do, he did, whether his colleagues concurred or not. Possibly this may account for the sparseness of the attendance of members during the early years of the Trust.

In the selection of books, Barry showed a catholic taste. The best of everything was his motto, and so far as money was available, the best he got. Mistakes, of course, were made, but, on the whole, the first 50,000 volumes placed in the Public Library of Victoria formed the nucleus of a collection of which any Library might be proud. One of his famous orders was for a London bookseller to supply the works of all the authorities referred to by Gibbon in his

monumental history. Such an order captivates by its grandeur, even if its wisdom be questioned.

In connection with Library work, one idea of Sir Redmond Barry's has gained unstinted approval. In 1859 he introduced the system now known as "travelling libraries," in order to assist country readers and Mechanics' Institutes. Cases of books, each containing about fifty volumes, were specially prepared, and from one to four of these cases were lent to such libraries as chose to ask for them. At the end of the term they were returned to headquarters and replaced, if desired, by others. This system has been introduced into the United States and Canada, with various modifications, and with very marked success. Barry was of opinion that novels were out of place in a great public library. A visitor, to whom he was showing the Library, asked him whether there were many works of fiction in the collection. "Very few indeed, Sir," replied the Judge; "and I am thankful to say that these few are being rapidly appropriated by unscrupulous persons, and will not be replaced." Replaced, however, they were, for the only volumes of the kind introduced by Augustus Tulk were the works which had become classic, and which were, therefore, essential to the collection. Nevertheless, the works of fiction in the Public Library are probably less than in any other library of the same size.

Sir Redmond Barry used to visit the Library at all hours, and spent much of his time writing in Mr. Tulk's room, or in the Trustees' room. In the Old Board Room was a large swinging mirror, long a source of wonder to those who never knew its purpose. It was the Judge's dressing glass, and it would appear that he frequently used the room as a robing room, when about to attend some function. On one occasion he had arrayed himself in all the glory of the handsome gold embroidered gown worn by the Chancellor of the University, and, stepping into the vestibule, he bade the hall porter call a cab. It meant an absence of several minutes, and the man, with some hesitation, explained that if he left his post, there would be no one to take charge of the sticks and umbrellas. "I

will attend to that," said Sir Redmond, and visitors for the next ten minutes marvelled at the apparition of the stately Judge in magnificent robes taking charge of their walking sticks, and doubtless enjoying the look of awed astonishment which his appearance caused.

In his private life Sir Redmond Barry was always the gentleman of the old school, most generous of hosts, kindest of friends. The late Alexander Sutherland tells us how royally he entertained his friends on occasions, and quotes from the Comte de Beauvoir, who speaks of his astonishment at finding Sir Redmond in a country but 30 years old, able to entertain in the princely style of "la Vieille Angleterre." The Count speaks of Barry as the founder of the Museum and the Library, the Chancellor of the University, and "en un mot, l'homme important de Victoria." From Mr. Sutherland, too, we learn of the simple pride and pleasure that the Judge took in gardening, and how he loved to spend a few days now and then devoting himself to a little practical agriculture on his "Sabine Farm" at Mulgrave. On each anniversary of his arrival at Melbourne he entertained his friends at a bachelor dinner. After the dinner a great five-quart jorum of old port was produced, and it is not difficult to imagine the *Nunc est bibendum* of the host, as he opened the great cobweb-covered bottle with much ceremony. Each of these huge bottles was tagged with a parchment label, on which was written some appropriate Latin quotation, and the guests of the evening wrote their names on the back of this label. One can picture the brilliant company that would be present on such occasions, for "there were giants in the earth in those days." Representatives of the best blood and brains of the old country had found their way to Australia, and Melbourne got her share of these. Leaders of the learned professions, the heads of the army and navy, politicians, and literary men, and perhaps a foreign potentate from some great vessel at anchor in the bay; these were the men who foregathered in Sir Redmond Barry's dining-room.

From his very early days Redmond Barry was a student of the classics, and he loved to quote from them on all



occasions. He was a personal friend of Isaac Butt, the founder of the Dublin University Magazine, and in Mr. Sutherland's opinion, was, doubtless, a coadjutor in this venture. Sir Redmond tried his hand at writing verse, but soon had the good sense to recognise his limitations in this respect. He was rather fond of lecturing, and delivered addresses at different times on "Architecture, Sculpture, and Painting," on "Agriculture," on "Music and Painting," and similar subjects. He was not a good lecturer; his style was verbose and pedantic, and whilst his addresses bear witness to patient research and much reading, they were neither interesting nor inspiring. If not successful in his own literary ventures, however, Redmond Barry loved books, and he loved reading. The motto for the Public Library he took from Cicero, and, with him, he believed that books "are the food of youth, the delight of old age; they adorn prosperity, and are the support and consolation of adversity; they are a delight at home and no hindrance abroad; companions by night, in travelling, and in the country." Believing, nay knowing, that books were all these things and more, he was anxious that they should be within the reach of all, and both privately and in his capacity as President of the Public Library Trustees, he did his utmost to attain that end. His unselfish labour and his broad-minded and statesmanlike conception of what a public library should be, have not been without fruit. The people of Victoria are said to be proud of their Public Library, and it may be hoped that they will ever remember, in connection with it, the name of its founder, to whom they owe so much. From the personal standpoint, those who have never troubled to understand the somewhat complex character of Sir Redmond Barry, are apt to judge him superficially, and somewhat harshly. They are prone to dwell upon his weaknesses rather than his virtues. They speak of his pomposity, his vanity, and other defects in his character. For these he, doubtless, paid the penalty, great or small, and they are best forgotten. On the other hand, there are many things we may remember of Sir Redmond Barry. He was a truly charitable man.

He was ever ready to help those who were in distress, though never with the ostentatious charity of the *parvenu*. We may remember also of him that he never shirked his obligations, and we may remember that to him honour, truth, courage, and even dignity, were not merely empty words, but binding obligations. But we prefer to judge him by his works. Let those who seek to weigh him in the balance put on one side of the scale all the faults they can; on the other let them put the unquestionable facts that he was the *de facto* founder, the far-seeing, noble, and unselfish friend and guide of the Public Library and the University, works that we may fairly hope will make his name immortal. To him who holds the balance fairly, it is surely evident that he is but weighing feathers against gold.

Sir Redmond Barry died on the 23rd of November, 1880. Some four years previously a movement had been started to erect a statue in his honour by public subscription. The matter was not sufficiently pressed, however, and it was not until seven years after his death that the great bronze monument was erected in front of the Public Library buildings. Possibly Sir Redmond Barry was not sufficiently appreciated by his fellows during his life, but it is certain that in the two institutions with which his name is most intimately associated, he has left a permanent memento of unselfish toil and noble enthusiasm. Victoria has, perhaps, had colonists more distinguished, more learned, more brilliant. If a roll were made of the public men to whom she is most indebted, it would be no ignoble list, and high, very high, on that roll would be writ the name of Redmond Barry. *Victoria fronde coronet.*

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#### DAVID CHARTERIS McARTHUR.

David Charteris McArthur, the second President of the Trustees, was a well known colonist in the early days of Victoria. He emigrated to New South Wales in 1835, to

accept a position in the Bank of Australasia, in Sydney, and some three years afterwards he was sent over to Melbourne to open the first bank in the little settlement, which was soon to develope into a great city. Mr. McArthur at once took a prominent place amongst the citizens of the new township. He was one of the founders of the Melbourne Athenæum, then known as the Mechanics' Institute, and he also took an active part in the inauguration of the Botanical Gardens. He was amongst the first settlers at Heidelberg, and interested himself in municipal matters relating to that suburb, and at a later date took a prominent part in the establishment of the Austin Hospital for Incurables. In 1882 he became President of the Old Colonists' Association, which was founded for the relief of old residents, who were in destitute circumstances. Mr. McArthur, who gradually rose to the position of Superintendent of the Bank of Australasia, was regarded as an authority on matters of finance, and, as early as Governor Hotham's time, he had been commissioned to report on the financial state of the colony, the general extravagance of the time having led the people into a somewhat serious position. Mr. McArthur was one of the five original Trustees of the Public Library, who were appointed in 1853. He remained on the Board until his death, in 1887, and always took a keen interest in everything connected with the Institution. His work was done quietly and unostentatiously, and it is difficult to estimate how far his influence actually made itself felt in the advancement of the Institution. His sound judgment was much appreciated by his colleagues on the Board, and he was made Vice-President in 1873, and President, as well as Chairman of the Library Committee, on the death of Sir Redmond Barry, in 1880. He held the office of President until 1883, when he asked that he should not be re-elected, as he felt that owing to his advanced years and failing health he would no longer be able to carry out the duties of the office to his own satisfaction.

## SIR GEORGE VERDON.

Sir George Frederick Verdon, K.C.M.G., C.B., F.R.S., was the third President of the Trustees of the Public Library. He was first appointed a member of the Trust in 1872, and became Vice-President in 1880, and President in 1883. The eldest son of an Anglican clergyman, he was born at Pendleton in 1834, and came to Victoria in 1851, where, like most young men of the time, he at once tried his fortune on the gold fields. Being unsuccessful, he turned his attentions to mercantile pursuits, and for a time managed a business in New Zealand for the firm of Heape and Grice, but soon returned to Victoria, and settled at Williamstown, where he became a member of the Municipal Council in 1856. He was a member of the volunteer forces, and in 1857 he led his company in suppressing an outbreak of convicts, at the time Inspector Price was killed. Mr. Verdon became an honorary assistant in the Melbourne Observatory in 1858, and in the following year was elected to the Legislative Assembly. In 1860 he was made Treasurer in the Heales Government, and held the same office under Sir James McCulloch, from 1863 to 1868. In 1866 he went to London, on behalf of the Government, in connection with the defences of the colony and the establishment of the Melbourne Mint. He was elected to represent Emerald Hill on his return to Victoria, and in 1868 was appointed Agent-General for the colony. He filled this office until 1872, when he resigned, in order to become General Manager of the English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered Bank, a position which he held till 1891, when he retired. Sir George Verdon was a member of the Victorian Fine Arts Commission of 1864-5, and he was one of the Royal British Commissioners at the Centennial Exhibition, 1888-89. He was knighted in 1872, in recognition of his public services.

Sir George Verdon was an amateur collector of objects of art, and spared no pains to advance the affairs of the National Gallery from the time that he served on the Fine Arts Commission, in 1864. He assisted

the Trustees, as far as possible, during the time he held office as Agent-General, and when he visited London in 1890 he was asked to act on the Committee of Advice, in conjunction with Mr. A. Taddy Thomson and Sir James McCulloch. He obtained designs for the Travelling Scholarship medal, and for a gold medal, to be presented for special services to the Institution. In 1894, when he again visited London, he purchased for the Trustees the picture of the "Interior of the Church of St. Anne at Bruges," by David Roberts, and was instrumental in obtaining for the Art Museum many specimens of ceramic art. Sir George was a pleasant speaker, and filled the office of President of the Trustees with zeal and ability. In a minute, expressing regret at his death, in September, 1896, his colleagues stated that he had rendered many and valuable services to the Institution, and during the thirteen years that he had been President, his constant attention to the best interests of the Institution, and his artistic knowledge and taste, as well as his tact and courtesy in the chair, had been of the utmost value, and his example would remain with them as the ideal of a Trustee and of a President.

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### THE HONOURABLE EDWARD LANGTON.

The Honourable Edward Langton was first elected a member of the Board of Trustees in 1874. He was at that time a very prominent figure in Victorian politics, and had held office as Treasurer and Postmaster-General in the Francis Ministry. He first became known as a public speaker in 1859, when he delivered some powerful addresses in favour of free-trade, a principle to which he was devoted with all the thoroughness of his nature. He was first elected to Parliament in 1866, and for some ten years remained an active member of the House, to be remembered for his keen, incisive, and logical speeches, and the unyielding manner in which he fought for principles in which he thoroughly believed. His advocacy of free-trade was respon-

sible for the establishment of a weekly paper, known as the "Spectator," of which he became proprietor and editor in 1865. The paper was not a financial success, and Mr. Langton gave it up, and devoted such time as he could spare to literary work in writing for the "Argus," to which he contributed many leaders on fiscal and political matters.

From the date of his appointment as a Trustee, Mr. Langton took an active interest in the affairs of the Institution, and particularly with regard to the National Gallery. He was an accountant by profession, and held office as Treasurer from 1876 to 1886, and in that capacity fought several battles with Government officers, for what he considered to be undue interference with the authority of the Trustees. He was elected to the office of Vice-President in 1886, and succeeded Sir George Verdon as President in 1896.

Mr. Langton went to England in 1887, and devoted much time during his visit to the affairs of the National Gallery. He selected "The First Cloud," by Orchardson, and "An Easterly Breeze," by Peter Graham. He was entrusted by the Government with a commission to inquire into the working of the Council of the House of Commons on public accounts, and in carrying out this duty he was brought into contact with many influential people in London, and when an opportunity offered he never forgot to do his best to stimulate interest in the Public Library and Art Gallery.

The late President was always a keen advocate for upholding what he considered the rights and responsibilities of the Trustees. He was never able to reconcile the Act of Parliament, which invested them with the management of the Institution, and the Public Service Act, which practically took away from them the control of the officers on the staff. Mr. Langton was always a prominent advocate of the opening of the Libraries and Museums on Sundays, and he took a leading part in the movement in its favour in 1883. He, with other Trustees, held that they were responsible for the government of the Institution, and that they had power to open it on Sundays if they thought fit. They accordingly did open the Galleries for several Sundays,



MICHAEL FRANCIS DOWDEN.



PROFESSOR E. E. MORRIS.





but were ultimately compelled to close them in deference to the expressed wish of Parliament. Much public interest was aroused at the time, and Mr. Langton fought strongly for the opening, and spoke at the public meetings, which were held in connection with the question by the citizens of Melbourne. He lived to see the Sunday opening principle affirmed by Parliament more than twenty years later.

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### PROFESSOR MORRIS, LITT.D.

Professor Edward Ellis Morris was appointed a Trustee of the Public Library in 1879, and became Chairman of the Library Committee in 1885, and Vice-President of the Trustees in 1896. He was enthusiastically devoted to the affairs of the Library, and as Chairman of the Committee was able to do much for its advancement. Kindly, courteous, and sympathetic, as he was by nature, he was yet a firm and businesslike chairman. He was particularly interested in publications connected with Australia, and always urged that, as far as possible, every book and pamphlet relating to his adopted country should be obtained for the Public Library. In addition to a generous supply of everything that could be called "literature," he was strongly in favour of obtaining books on technical subjects, as he considered the Public Library should, as far as possible, deserve the title of "the University of the People." Professor Morris was born at Madras in 1843, and was educated at Rugby, and later at Oxford, where he took a good degree in 1866. He devoted himself to teaching, and was an assistant master at St. Peter's College, Radley, and afterwards at Haileybury. In 1871 he became head-master of the Bedfordshire Middle Class Public School, and in 1875 accepted the appointment of head-master of the Church of England Grammar School at Melbourne. He was appointed to the chair of modern languages in the University of Melbourne in 1884.

Professor Morris was the first editor of a series of "Epochs of Modern History," in which he published "The Age of

Anne" and "The Early Hanoverians." After he came to Victoria he edited Cassell's "Picturesque Australasia," which was issued in 1887. He published a "Memoir of George Higinbotham" in 1895, and "Austral-English, a dictionary of Australasian words," in 1898. He also contributed frequently to magazines and newspapers, and at the time of his death was engaged upon a life of Captain Cook. He lectured to the Library Association at different times on Flinders and Banks, and on the "Australian Author and the Libraries." Professor Morris was also the founder and president of the Melbourne Shakespeare Society. Besides his literary work, he did much for the cause of charity, and by his efforts the Charity Organization Society, which has done, and is still doing, excellent work in Melbourne, was founded.

The Morris Library at the Melbourne Church of England Grammar School was established by the late Professor in the interests of the school, and in all matters relating to libraries he was a sympathetic and a willing helper. He took a great interest in the establishment of the Public Lending Library, and was one of the advocates for a greater supply of fiction to this department. Professor Morris did everything in his power to raise the status of Library Assistants. He understood the necessity of having educated and specially trained men for the work, and he spared no effort to induce the Government to recognize the requirements of the Trustees in this respect. His work at the Library was of a kind that attracts little notice, but he was nevertheless a force in the advancement of the Institution, where he has left behind him a name that is honoured and beloved.

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### AUGUSTUS TULK.

Augustus Henry Tulk, the first Librarian of the Public Library, was appointed to that position on the 5th of May, 1856. He was the son of a gentleman of independent means, who owned a considerable portion of Leicester Square, and represented Poole in the House of Commons.



AUGUSTUS HENRY TULK.



Like thousands of other Englishmen of his class, Augustus Tulk was brought up to no particular profession or calling. He was born in 1813, and received his early training at Winchester School, where he received a good classical education. He afterwards studied at Heidelberg, and spent much time on the Continent, where he acquired a considerable knowledge of modern European languages. He learnt to speak with fluency German, French, Russian, and Italian, besides studying other languages, including Hindustani. Mr. Tulk was a man of delicate constitution, with a consumptive tendency. For climatic reasons he thought Australia would be a suitable country in which to settle, and he read much about it during his life on the Continent. He was instrumental in persuading Mr. Eugene von Guerard, who for a time acted as a teacher of drawing to one of his sons, to emigrate to Australia, and from Mr. von Guerard, afterwards well known in Victoria as an artist, he heard accounts of the country, which stimulated his existing desire to settle there. He determined to become a squatter, for a time at least, and settle his sons as landowners in Victoria. As his wife was very averse to making a long voyage in the passenger vessels of the time, Mr. Tulk bought a schooner, which he named the "General Guyon," and having loaded her with mining and other machinery, instead of ballast, he obtained a crew, and made the voyage in this vessel, with his wife and five children. On his arrival in Victoria he was persuaded to invest his money in mining ventures instead of land, and in a short time lost most of his capital. He sold the General Guyon, which, under happier auspices, he intended to keep as a pleasure yacht, and finding that his early training was not such as to make him a successful man of business, he was glad to look for a more congenial occupation, and applied for the post of Public Librarian, for which he was duly selected from some eight and forty candidates.

From the moment of receiving this appointment he threw himself heart and soul into the work of building up the new Library. He won the confidence and friendship of Judge Barry, and, inspired by that confidence, he soon became as enthusiastic in the interests of the Library as the

Judge himself. His task, too, was in many ways an inspiring one. It was pioneer work. Books were very scarce in the young colony, but money was fairly plentiful, and the Government was treating the Judge liberally. Moreover, in the strange medley that then composed the population of Melbourne there were many who hungered for the quiet companionship of the books they had long since learned to love. The new Library was watched with anxious eyes, the interest taken in it by readers was a personal one, and as the large shipments of books arrived there were many eager to welcome them. Men, who in the Universities and in the public schools, and in the private homes of the Old Land, had learned to love books, found it hard to gratify their taste in a new country, far removed from the literary centres of the world. Redmond Barry and Augustus Tulk were in sympathy with such as these, as they were in sympathy with all who sought assistance from the books which were their peculiar charge. So the new Librarian set to work. Book by book, set by set, the foundations of the Library were laid, and in almost every volume the Librarian was able to take a personal interest. For there was a keen satisfaction in collecting the works of the great men of letters. The English chronicles and romances, the early Bibles, the works of Chaucer, More, Shakespeare, Ben Jonson, Milton, Swift, Steele, Addison, and numerous others, to the days of Tennyson and Browning, Carlyle, and Matthew Arnold; these and their great foreign contemporaries were all intensely interesting "quarry," easy to obtain, it is true, but some zest was added to the chase in seeking only the best editions. Then there were the classics and some good translations; all the great histories and topographies; the magazines and publications of the learned societies; the scarce books, the good "tall folios," and the dainty little duodecimos; all these were interesting, the very handling of them was a satisfaction, the compilation of their records was something better than "a dull catalogue of common things." There was another, and less pleasurable, duty in adding to the collection. The purely utilitarian side was never to be neglected. It was not such

pleasant work as dealing with the literary side, but the Librarian never shirked it. The technical works, the Ephemerides, the *biblia-a-biblia*, as Lamb would call them, were essential in a general library for the public, and they received a due share of attention from the Librarian. Much of the work of a library is pleasurable, much is pure drudgery, and Augustus Tulk had too keen a sense of duty to shun the drudgery, greatly as he might love the other portion of his work. To see the collection grow, and the gaps filled in; to handle the beautiful volumes that Sir Redmond loved to buy; to condemn the "cheap" editions; to browse amongst the shelves; to linger lovingly over some old friend, or to stop, spell-bound, by some new one; these were matters of delight to a man like Mr. Tulk; whilst to discuss literary matters with his friends was a welcome relaxation from the routine drudgery of official correspondence, consulting catalogues, and ordering and classifying books. But Augustus Tulk found time for all. His correspondence and the routine matters of his office received their due attention. And when the Trustees wished to found an Art Department, it was he who first took charge. Mr. Tulk was a member of the Fine Arts Commission of 1863, and he worked as zealously for the Art Gallery in its early days as he had worked for the Library. He lived to see the Institution duly incorporated, and the Museums and Art Galleries attached to the Library. It was in the world of books, however, that Augustus Tulk found his true *métier*. He had learned to love books long before he came to Australia, and his work, as has been said, was largely that of a collector. He was supposed to have known every great book shop in Europe, as well as in London, and it is certain that he knew the best of them. Moreover, he knew his books. It is told of a well known bookseller, that when some one praised a great reader, on account of his wonderful knowledge of books, he replied with scorn, "Knowledge of books; he has no knowledge of books; he only knows the insides of them." Augustus Tulk knew both sides. His seventeen years' experience as Librarian had taught him much as regards the commercial value of books; his life's

experience had taught him to value them in a higher sense, for what was inside them. Blessed with a wonderful memory—a valuable gift to any man, but doubly valuable to a Librarian—he was able to use his knowledge to the best advantage. He was to some extent a Librarian of the old school, and to say that is to pay the memory of the man no mean compliment. It means that he was of a school with Dibdin, Laing, Douce, Ellis, and, perhaps, the old Italian Magliabecchi. He had not the combination of scholarship and practical librarianship of Panizzi, but he had the wide reading and the real love of books that so often marked the old-time librarian or keeper. He was not the man to devise means to supply promptly whatever information might be required. There was no need for haste, and what was worth getting was worth waiting for, if it could not be supplied from his own capacious memory. So he had none of the aids to readers that are so necessary in modern libraries. The collection of 80,000 volumes, which he had got together with Judge Barry's aid, was an excellent one, and it was fairly classified, though he differed from modern views of classification, *toto coelo*, as he himself would say. It was as a collector and a book lover, rather than as a Librarian, that the services of Augustus Tulk were valuable. For valuable they were, and many a man to-day owes an unknown debt of gratitude to the first Librarian of the Public Library for the broad-minded spirit, and for the dutiful and loving care which he spent on selecting the books, which were to form the foundation of what will surely some day be recognized as a great collection. In reporting the death of the first Librarian, the Trustees stated that he had performed with marked ability, efficiency, and zeal, the numerous and varied duties incident to the formation of the collection of books. His extensive acquaintance with literature, ancient and modern, enabled him to render most important assistance to the Trustees, and, in addition to the labours imposed on him in the discharge of the duties of Librarian, he undertook those of Curator of the Museum, and was justly entitled to a true recognition of his meritorious services in collecting, classify-



ing, and arranging the pictures, statues, and other objects of art, accumulated up to the time of the incorporation of the Institution. These are simple statements of fact, but much more might be said of Augustus Tulk. He was a born linguist, and up to the time of his death was studying Fijian and Australian dialects, in addition to keeping up the knowledge of languages acquired in his early days. He was a personal friend of Sir Redmond Barry, and his linguistic attainments made him always a welcome guest when the Judge was entertaining foreign visitors. He had a faculty for making and keeping friends, owing to his kindly and generous nature, and he never forgot any little obligations. He found employment at the Library for his former servant, John Hopkins, who was the steward on the General Guyon. He, doubtless, helped Mr. Eugene von Guerard in obtaining the appointment of Master in the School of Painting, and he assisted Mr. G. G. Brockway, the son of a lawyer in his father's constituency, in obtaining his first appointment at the Library. Mr. Tulk's reputation as a librarian, and his success in building up the Melbourne Library, led to inducements being held out to him to perform a similar service in Sydney. But his heart was with the Victorian Institution, which he declined to leave for the neighbouring State, as he declined to accept proffered assistance to enable him to obtain a librarianship in the Royal Household in England. Victoria was fortunate in securing his services at the initiation of her Public Library, and her citizens should be grateful to a public officer, who quietly and unostentatiously rendered a great and lasting service to his country. There are men still living who remember the kindly old English gentleman, whose wide reading and capacious memory were seldom at fault on questions connected with general literature. They speak of him as a man dignified in presence, courteous, and pleasant in manner. It is not, perhaps, unfitting to close this brief notice with the words of a friend, who wrote at the time of his death. "As a man he was modesty, gentleness, and innate nobleness of character, all combined. There never breathed a human being in whom refined culture, boundless knowledge, dignity of character,

and the deepest piety of spirit, were more firmly blended. *Vale.* Let this unfitting tribute from the hand of one who knew him intimately, loved him deeply, and respected him this side of veneration, be cast as a simple wreath on the grave of Augustus Tulk."

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### HENRY SHEFFIELD.

Mr. Henry Sheffield was the first Sub-Librarian of the Public Library. The rapid growth of the Library had soon made it necessary that Mr. Tulk should have more assistance than that of the Clerk and two or three attendants, who constituted the staff when he was appointed. Henry Sheffield was selected for the office at the beginning of 1858, as he had some training amongst books in the early days. He had served an apprenticeship to a London bookseller, and by dint of hard work and close application to the duties of his new office he soon made himself of value to Mr. Tulk. He lived at the Library for some years, in rooms opposite the old Board Room, in the south side of the Entrance Hall.

Mr. Sheffield, who is still living, is of a very retiring disposition. He was appointed Librarian in 1873, in succession to Mr. Tulk, and held that office until the appointment of Dr. Bride, in 1881. In his later years at the Library, Mr. Sheffield devoted himself mainly to the work of cataloguing. The manuscript of the large catalogue issued in 1880 is mostly in his handwriting, and he also compiled a bulky manuscript list of pamphlets, which was never printed. He did not attempt anything in the nature of a classified catalogue, but confined his entries as far as possible to what are known as author entries, periodicals and publications of Societies being grouped under such headings as "Reviews, Magazines, and Journals," and "Societies and Clubs." He had a wonderful knowledge of the books in the Library, most of which had passed through his hands on many occasions, but he was fortunate enough to retire before the problems that perplex the more modern Librarian had become of great

import at the Melbourne Library. Mr. Sheffield resigned in 1881, and has since spent most of his time in the quiet retirement of a country town.

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### THOMAS FRANCIS BRIDE, LL.D.

Dr. Thomas Francis Bride, who was appointed to the Librarianship in 1881, had previously held office as University Librarian and Assistant Registrar. After a distinguished career in the Law School, in which he obtained two exhibitions and the Law Scholarship, he accepted the office of University Librarian in 1873. In 1879 he took the degree of Doctor of Laws, a degree which had only been taken, up to that time, by two others in the young University. In 1880, Dr. Bride had some idea of devoting himself to politics, and he contested an election for North Melbourne in the conservative interest. He polled a large number of votes, but was defeated by a supporter of the Berry Ministry. In the following year he was appointed to the position of Librarian by Mr. Graham Berry, although he had stood in opposition to his Government. When Dr. Bride accepted the Librarianship, he took office under grave difficulties, and his work was that of a reformer. He had a splendid collection of books, about 115,000 volumes in all, but he had no qualified staff, and the Library was in a state of confusion through lack of systematic management. To add to the troubles of the new librarian, the shelves were overcrowded, and books were stacked in great heaps in different parts of the building, awaiting accommodation. The classification was on a system long since out of date. There were no subject catalogues, nor guides of any kind to the books, except the printed author catalogue, and the Bay catalogues, which were supposed to contain author entries for the particular sections which they represented. The staff consisted of three assistants, some half-dozen attendants, and a messenger. Two or three years previously Sir Redmond Barry had introduced the system of appointing lads, who had matriculated at the

University, to junior positions on the staff, in the hope that they would continue their studies and become qualified assistants. Dr. Bride approved of this system, and one of his first efforts was to obtain the services of some junior assistants, and to endeavour to raise the status of the Library service so as to give them some reasonable career for which to work. He himself started with a will to improve the Library records, and, following in the footsteps of his predecessor, attempted to carry out the cataloguing of the new books himself, whilst his junior assistants were being trained. He also adapted and adopted a new scheme of classification for the books, but his difficulty was to obtain assistants capable of carrying out his plans. In the course of a few years, by dint of hard work, he had improved matters very considerably. The periodicals, which for the most part had not been available to the public until bound, often months after the date of issue, were placed in pigeon-holes and made available as soon as received at the Library. A similar course was adopted with the newspapers, and a special effort was made to improve this department, which had been sadly neglected. A *catalogue raisonné* was commenced, and the reclassification of the books was gradually carried out. In connection with the latter work Dr. Bride was fortunate in obtaining the services of the late Dr. Gagliardi, who brought to bear on the task a trained mind and a considerable knowledge of books. As the books were classified, they were numbered on a system introduced by Professor Nanson, and lists were made giving the exact contents of each particular shelf. In 1882, Dr. Bride drew up a report on the establishment of a Lending Library, a course which he then strongly recommended, although he did not succeed in getting it established till ten years later. In the year 1886 he was beginning to reap the benefit of the services of some of the assistants whom he had trained, and felt himself able to take up the duties of Secretary to the Trustees in addition to those of Librarian. He was thus enabled to devote more attention to the administrative work of the Institution, and to assist the Trustees in matters of general policy and development. In 1895, after fourteen years of

hard work in the Library, Dr. Bride resigned in order to accept the position of Curator of the estates of deceased persons, an office which he still holds.

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### MICHAEL FRANCIS DOWDEN, LL.B.

Michael Francis Dowden succeeded Dr. Bride as Librarian in 1895. He was first appointed to the staff in 1878, when Sir Redmond Barry was endeavouring to make the Library service more attractive to young men, and was urging them to continue their studies so as to fit themselves for the higher positions in the Institution. Mr. Dowden at the time was doubtful whether he would remain at the Library, as he had a strong desire to devote himself to the profession of law, and with this object in view he took the degree of Bachelor of Laws at the Melbourne University, and was called to the Bar in 1886. In 1888 he was promoted to the office of second principal assistant, and gave up the idea of practising his profession, in order that he might give his undivided attention to the work of the Library. He made a special study of cataloguing and classification, and until his appointment as Librarian he was in charge of the compilation of the *catalogue raisonné* which had been started under Dr. Bride's *régime*. Mr. Dowden had an extensive general knowledge, and a rapid method of grasping and following up a clue in any difficult question of library research that came before him. He was very thorough in his work, and spared neither time nor trouble in seeking the solution of some knotty point in library procedure. His untimely death, when he had held office only for a few months, brought to an end a promising career. He had not had time to make his influence permanently felt when he was stricken with pneumonia, and died, after a very brief illness, in February, 1896. Mr. Dowden was deeply esteemed for his high character and sterling qualities, and he had won for himself a very sincere personal regard from all with whom he was closely associated.

## MARCUS CLARKE

Marcus Clarke's name is so well known as an Australian writer that the fact of his connection with the Public Library is apt to be overlooked. It certainly was not as a Librarian that he made his reputation, but he occupied the position of Secretary to the Trustees from 1870 to 1873, and was afterwards Sub-Librarian until his death, in 1881. His father was a barrister-at-law, of Irish descent from Cromwellian times, though the family was said to have been originally English. He was a man of literary tastes and Bohemian proclivities, and his son inherited both characteristics. Marcus Clarke was born in London in 1846, and emigrated to Victoria, where he had influential relations, shortly after the death of his father in 1864. He obtained a clerkship in the Bank of Australasia, but such uncongenial employment did not satisfy him, and he did not satisfy his employers. He left the bank to learn "colonial experience" on a station in the Wimmera district, where he remained for two years, and then, thanks to a chance meeting with a medical man, who was able to appreciate the mental gifts of the young "Jackeroo," he obtained a position on the staff of the "Argus." Regular journalism, however, was little more palatable to his mercurial temperament than had been his other attempts to earn a living, and he soon became a "free lance" instead of a regular member of the staff. He contributed some papers to the "Australasian," under the *nom de plume* of the "Peripatetic Philosopher," and these papers at once stamped him as a brilliant and graceful writer. In 1868 he joined J. J. Shillinglaw in editing the "Colonial Monthly," and in its pages produced his first novel, "Long Odds." He also edited for a time a paper called "Humbug," and, in addition to this and his newspaper contributions, he tried his facile pen at dramatisation. Indeed, very little literary work, save that which demanded sustained effort, came amiss to Marcus Clarke. Pungent satire, sparkling wit, pathos, and humour flowed freely from his ready pen, and occasionally touches

of deep feeling and true expression showed that, with the necessary effort, he might have achieved even much more than he did. He married in 1869. In the following year, as the result of a visit to Tasmania to recuperate from overwork, he began to write the novel by which he is best known, a very powerful tale of convict life, entitled "For the Term of His Natural Life."

During his connection with the Public Library, Marcus Clarke contributed to many of the leading newspapers, and to the local magazines, and translated, or, rather, adapted, Moliere's "*Bourgeois Gentilhomme*" for production on the Melbourne stage. He also wrote one or two plays and a number of short stories. His literary work was his life's work, and to it his Library work was entirely subordinate. The visible records of his ten years' work in the library are some badly kept minute books, and a worse than badly kept catalogue of bibliographical works that were his special charge. Neither Marcus Clarke's temperament nor training rendered him suitable for the real work of a Librarian. The difficulties of scientific cataloguing and classification were not such as he cared to master, and he never loved books in the sense that Sir Redmond Barry and Augustus Tulk loved them. The drudgery of the routine work, which is essential for any Librarian, was not a thing that he would attempt. It is doubtful if there was in his vocabulary such a word as duty, and his conception of the work of a Librarian was a strange one. After ten years' apprenticeship, the letter that he wrote in applying for the office of Public Librarian was one that might have been written by the veriest tyro. But if his services to the Institution were not what they might have been, he at least gained the admiration and affection of his colleagues, and pardonable pride may be felt in the fact that one who was so auspiciously connected with the early literature of Australia, was also closely associated with the Public Library. Sir Redmond Barry and his fellow Trustees, and, indeed, most people who knew him, were very merciful to Marcus Clarke. Faults that would have gone far to ruin another man were overlooked in him. Genius has an imperialism of its own, and

save perhaps by his creditors, Marcus Clarke was generally regarded as *Legibus solutus*. His reputation spread far beyond Australia, and those associated with the Public Library, in common with all who are interested in Australian literature, will always hold in proud as well as fond remembrance the name of Marcus Clarke as a powerful and brilliant writer, a fascinating comrade, who was boon companion of the best Bohemian set that Melbourne ever knew, a reckless, irresponsible, and wholly irresistible Bohemian, *litterateur*, *raconteur*, *viveur*.

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#### SIR FREDERICK MCCOY, K.C.M.G., D.Sc., F.R.S.

Sir Frederick McCoy held office as Director of the National Museum almost from its foundation till his death, in 1899. For forty-five years he was head of the Museum, which, in late years, at least, was his principal care in life. In 1854 Frederick McCoy was appointed first Professor of Natural Science in the newly established University of Melbourne. He had previously been Professor of Geology and Mineralogy in Queen's University, Belfast. As a very young man he had distinguished himself in palæontological work in connection with the geological survey of Ireland. The value of his published work on this subject obtained for him the honour of an invitation to join the British Geological Survey, which he left to accept the professional chair at Belfast. When appointed to Melbourne, he was expected to teach Geology, Zoology, Palæontology, Botany, Mineralogy, Chemistry, and even comparative anatomy. The work has since been divided amongst many teachers, but, up till the time of his death, Sir Frederick McCoy regarded the first four subjects as peculiarly his own. The principal works which he published in Victoria were the "Prodromus of the Palæontology of Victoria," and the "Prodromus of the Zoology of Victoria." Within two years of his landing in the colony, Professor McCoy, in addition to his University duties, was appointed





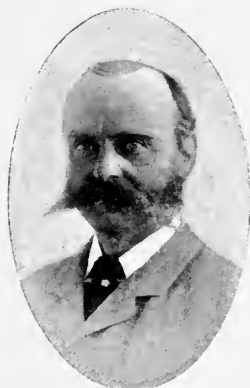
HENRY SHEFFIELD.



SIR FREDERICK MCCOY.



MARCUS CLARKE.



J. COSMO NEWBERY.



GEORGE F. FOLINGSBY.



Palæontologist in the Geological Surveyor's office. The National Museum at that time consisted of a small collection got together by Sir Andrew Clarke. It was housed in the Crown Lands Office, and during the Governorship of Sir Charles Hotham, who looked upon the collection of stuffed birds and beasts as a useless fad, its dispersement was seriously considered. The Philosophical Society spoke for the young Museum and asked to be given control of it. Professor McCoy, however, suggested that it should be transferred to the University, and as this did not meet with the views of the Philosophical Society, the difference of opinion led to some warmth of feeling. A public meeting was got up to advocate the wish of the members of the Society that the Museum should be housed at the Public Library, but before it could be held Professor McCoy had quietly transferred the exhibits to the University, and having once got control of them, he proved the old adage that possession was nine points of the law. The members of the Philosophical Institute and others might "protest," but the exhibits were safely housed at the University, and there Professor McCoy intended that they should remain, and there they did remain for forty years. In 1870, the control of the Museum was vested in the Trustees of the Public Library by Act of Parliament, but Sir Frederick McCoy had been too long in command willingly to yield the guidance of his beloved Museum into other hands. He remained Director, subject to the Trustees by law, but, whilst nominally recognising that authority, Sir Frederick McCoy managed to evade it as far as possible. Always polite, he managed to "forget" or to "misunderstand" instructions in such a way that remonstrance was useless. One chairman of his Committee of Control insisted upon bearding him at the University, and took with him a number of the Trustees. The Professor met them in the most affable way. Before entering upon business he hoped they would have a glass of wine with him, and then there was so much to talk about "before we touch upon that subject, Mr. President," that the Trustees withdrew late in the evening without

having in any way broken down the barrier of suave and gentlemanly resistance, behind which the Professor always entrenched himself. On another occasion, a member of the Board attacked the Professor somewhat rudely, though not without reason. Instead of dealing with the gravamen of the matter, the Professor calmly endeavoured to excuse the ill manners of his tormentor, and assured the Trustees that he was not hurt at such conduct, as the constituents of Mr. Blank (who was a member of Parliament) did not expect him to understand or conform to the standard of manners which was customary amongst gentlemen. Again and again instructions were given to the Director that money was not to be spent in the Museum without their sanction. But when brought to book, the particular item was "one urgently required," or "a great opportunity would have been lost had the matter been delayed," or "the order was really too trifling to need ratification," and so on.

Professor McCoy worked very earnestly for the Museum. He was in correspondence with a large number of scientific men, and he never lost an opportunity of acquiring a specimen for the collection. He spared no pains in determining and classifying the exhibits, and as his knowledge of Natural History was an exceptionally wide one, he was able to build up a collection of the greatest value to Students. His work for the Museum was really the main work of his life, and he succeeded in the face of great difficulties, in making the Museum a credit to the country in which most of his life was spent, and a fine memorial of its first Director. Greatly as it has been improved since his death, and greatly as doubtless it will be improved in future, the credit of collecting, determining, and describing the bulk of the collection will always belong to the first Director.

## JAMES COSMO NEWBERY, C.M.G., B.Sc.

James Cosmo Newbery had been employed on the scientific staff of the Geological Survey of Victoria for three or four years prior to the opening of the Industrial and Technological Museum. He received the appointment of Superintendent of the Museum on its foundation in 1870. Mr. Newbery was born at Leghorn, in Italy, in 1843, and, when very young, he went to the United States. He graduated at the Harvard University, where he took the degree of Bachelor of Science, and afterwards studied at the School of Mines in London, in order to fit himself for the profession of an analytical chemist. He came to Victoria in 1865 as analyst to the Geological Survey under Mr. Selwyn, who afterwards became Director of the Geological Survey of Canada. Mr. Newbery lost this position when the department was abolished by the McCulloch Government, and was appointed analyst to the Department of Mines, an office which he continued to hold in connection with that of Superintendent of the newly formed Industrial Museum. The original idea of the Trustees with regard to the Museum was that it should form a technical training school, and courses of lectures were established in applied chemistry, geology, mineralogy, and other subjects intended to teach science in relation to industry. Mr. Newbery obtained the services of Mr. Ulrich as an assistant, and for some years the Museum made rapid progress. The work of getting together collections of minerals, and objects illustrative of different manufacturing industries, was steadily carried on by the Superintendent, in addition to his teaching and laboratory work, and in course of time, he obtained a very valuable collection of exhibits. Probably the most instructive of these were the rock and mineral collections, the mining and metallurgical models, the phytological exhibits, and a very fine collection of specimens of Victorian timbers. Mr. Newbery was appointed honorary Superintendent of Juries at the Melbourne International Exhibition of 1880, and in the following year was made a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George in recognition of his services at the

Exhibition and of his scientific attainments. Mr. Newbery was always interested in scientific mining, and in conjunction with Mr. Vautin he patented a process for extracting gold from refractory ores, a subject to which he devoted much time and thought. He visited Europe at the end of 1889 to pursue his inquiries on this subject, and in connection with other matters relating to mining and industrial processes.

In 1882 Mr. Ormond decided to establish the Working Men's College, and the Trustees felt that it would be unnecessary to continue the classes at the Museum. The College was opened in 1887, and shortly afterwards, the telegraphy class, which had been continued longer than any other under the direction of the Trustees, was abolished, and the working of the Laboratories was stopped. Mr. Newbery, however, retained the office of Superintendent until his death, in May, 1895, and was allowed the right of private practice as an analyst.

Mr. Newbery's genial disposition won for him many friends, and he was deeply esteemed by his scientific contemporaries. He was one of the victims of the railway accident at Windsor, in 1887, and, although he obtained twelve months' leave of absence, to enable him to recruit, he never entirely recovered from the effects of the accident. Shortly after his death his bust in marble was presented to the Trustees by some of his friends and admirers, as a perpetual memento of his services to the Museum and to the community.

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### GEORGE FREDERICK FOLINGSBY.

George Frederick Folingsby was the first Director of the National Gallery of Victoria, although Mr. Eugene von Guerard held a somewhat similar office, under the official title of Master in the School of Painting. Mr. Folingsby was an Irishman by birth, but emigrated as a young man to the United States, where he obtained engagements on Harper's Magazine and other illustrated American journals.

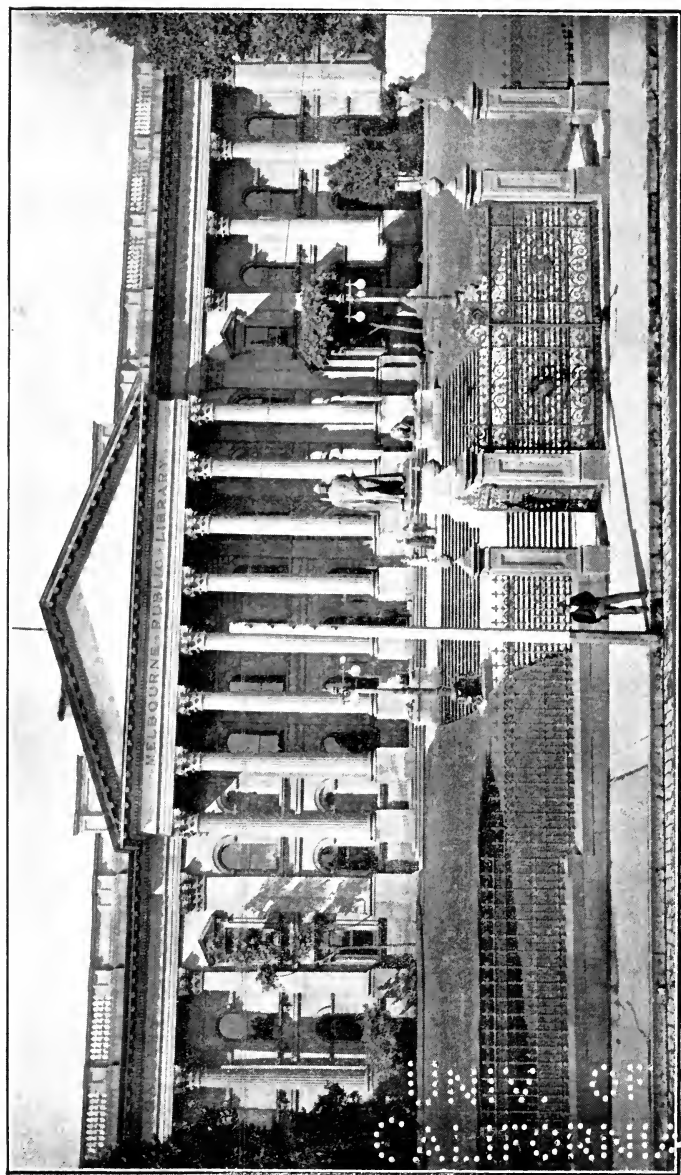
Having made sufficient money to enable him to pursue his studies, he went to Munich, and studied under Karl von Pilotz. He remained at Munich for six years, and then went to Paris, where he worked under Thomas Conture for about a year. After some time spent in travelling, he returned to Munich, where he remained for twenty-five years, practising his profession as an artist. In 1879, Sir Charles Gavan Duffy advised him to come to Australia, where he thought there was a good opening for a portrait painter. Mr. Folingsby, who was already known in Victoria by his picture of Bunyan in Prison, was favourably impressed with the suggestion, and, after communicating with some influential people in Melbourne, he determined to settle in the colony. He received a commission from the Trustees of the National Gallery authorising him to paint a picture for the Gallery at a cost of £500. It was intended that the picture should be painted after the arrival of the artist in Melbourne, but apparently Mr. Folingsby did not understand this, and induced the Trustees to purchase his picture of Henry VIII. and Anne Boleyn, which was painted before he left the Continent.

In 1880, Mr. Folingsby came to Victoria, where he became very successful as a portrait painter, one of his first commissions being to paint a portrait of Sir Redmond Barry, which is now in the Wilson Hall at the University. At the end of 1881, Mr. von Guerard retired from the office of Master in the School of Painting, and early in 1882 the Trustees advertised for a successor. There were sixteen applicants for the position, but Mr. Folingsby's name was not amongst them. The appointment was to carry a salary of £350 per annum and fees from the Students. The Trustees were apparently desirous of obtaining Mr. Folingsby's services, and negotiations were entered into with him, the result being that he was appointed as Director of the National Gallery and Master in the School of Art, at a salary independent of any fees received from Students. One of Mr. Folingsby's first acts as Director was to discontinue the practice of copying from pictures in the Gallery. He made the Students give much more attention to drawing from life,

and he may be said to have made the first attempt to take the study of art seriously. He introduced a properly organised system of teaching painting, and gave the Students facilities for drawing from life in the evening classes as well as in the day time. He started a class in painting from the head, and as the schools developed, he encouraged the Students to work at landscape in the open, and to do other work outside of the schools. He also induced the advanced pupils to compose and paint pictures under his direction. He initiated the regular exhibitions of Students' work, and advised the Trustees in regard to the foundation of the Travelling Scholarships, which were first awarded in 1887, in which year it was won by Mr. John Longstaff. Mr. Folingsby retained his office as Director of the Gallery until his death on the 4th of January, 1891.

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THE PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDINGS, 1906  
*(Central Front).*

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# INDEX.

---

- a'Beckett, Justice, 85.  
 a'Beckett, T. T., 25, 56.  
 "African panthers," 68.  
 "After the massacre of Glencoe"  
     61.  
 "After the storm," 59.  
 Alfred Hospital, 24.  
 Altson, A., 63, 74.  
 Altson, M., 85.  
 Aman-Jean, 91.  
 Andrews, E. W., 67.  
 "Anguish," 40.  
 Attendants, Police Constables  
     employed as, 67-8.  
 Ansdell, 39.  
 Archer, W. H., 41.  
 Armstrong, E. La T., 74.  
 Art gallery. *See* National gallery  
 L'aumône, 90.  
 Australasian Association for the  
     Advancement of Science, 81  
 "Autumn in the Fitzroy gardens,"  
     73.  
 Badcock, J., 25, 35.  
 Ball, P., 58, 64, 75.  
 Ballarat Art Gallery, 76.  
 Barkly, Sir H., 7, 9, 12, 14.  
 Barry, Sir Redmond, appointed  
     Trustee, 1; addresses, 9, 12,  
     16; goes to England, 13; bust  
     of, 13; obtains donations, 14,  
     16; appointed to the Fine  
     Arts Commission, 15; letter  
     to Tulk, 17; elected Pres-  
     ident, 26; coat of arms, 31-2;  
     visits Europe and America,  
     37; death of, 41-2; statue of,  
     57; biographical note, 94-102.  
 Batman, J., 40, 48.  
 Battye, J. S., 72.  
 Barry Hall, 54-5, 89.  
 Barye, 91.  
 Baxter, C., 15, 16.  
 Beardall, J., 25.  
 Bedford, T. B., 13, 15.  
 Beechey, Sir W., 16.  
 Bell, G., 86.  
 Belle Yseult, La, 15.  
 Bendigo Art Gallery, 76.  
 Benevolent Asylum, 22, 23.  
 Bent, T., 72.  
 Bentley, W. R., 57.  
 "Between Tallarook and Yea,"  
     85.  
 Berry, Sir G., 51, 87.  
 Beyle, 44.  
 Bindon, S. H., 22, 25, 30, 40.  
 Bird, F. D., 56-7.  
 Blandowski, 27.  
 Bleasdale, Rev. J. I., 25, 40.  
 Boehm Sir E., 58.  
 Booth, C., 92.  
 Boroondara, 10, 11.  
 "Boulevard, Montmartre," 90.  
 Boys, R. D., 80, 82.  
 Brassey, Lord, 74, 75, 76, 81.  
 Brazier, A. W., 82.  
 Bride, T. F., 41, 43, 47, 48, 54,  
     61, 73, 74, 78, biographical  
     note, 115-17.  
 Brierly, 44.  
 Bright, C. E., 25, 33, 46, 48.  
 "Bright winter's morning," 73,  
     74.  
 Brighton, 10.  
 Brockway, G. G., 7, 58.  
 Bromley, F. H., 73.  
 Brooke, G. V., 22.

- Brown, F. M., 91.  
 "Buckland valley," 67.  
 "Buffalo Ranges," 16.  
 Buildings, 61, 67, 78.  
 Bunny, R., 68.  
 "Bunyan in Prison," 16, 39.  
 Burgoyne, 2.  
 Burke and Wills expedition, 35.  
 Burns, A., 80.  
 "Bush fire in Gippsland," 78.  
 "Bush Symphony," 82.  
 Butler, Lady, 52, 81.  
 Buvelot, 26, 59, 85.  
 Buvelot Gallery, 55, 57, 59, 61, 70.  
 Cain, J., 58.  
 Campbell, O. R., 37, 54.  
 "Canute listening to the monks of Ely," 91.  
 Caretaker's Cottage, 56.  
 Carlile, E., 85.  
 Castlenau, Comte de, 40.  
 Catalogues, 13, 16, 38, 42, 71, 85.  
 Catani, U., 67.  
 Cederberg, F., 16.  
 Chapman, F., 85.  
 Chevalier, N., 16, 66.  
 Childers, H. C. E., suggests foundation of Library, 1; appointed Trustee, 1; to select Works of Art, 8, 15; superseded as Trustee, 14.  
 "Chloe," 48.  
 Christopherson and Brown, 80.  
 Christopherson, W. P., 88.  
 "Christ's lesson in humility," 91.  
 "Church of St. Anne, Bruges," 72.  
 "Circe," 82-3.  
 Clark, T., 12, 26, 37.  
 Clarke, Sir A., 8, 15, 16, 27.  
 Clarke, M., 26, 34, 41, 43; biographical note, 118-20.  
 Clarke, P., 74.  
 Clarke, Sir W. J., 39.  
 Clausen, G., 90.  
 Cleary, W., 5, 34, 35.  
 Coates, G., 75, 88.  
 Cogen, 44.  
 Cohen, I., 92.  
 Cole, T., 91.  
 Collier, T., 91.  
 Collingwood, 10, 11.  
 Colonial and Indian exhibition, 53.  
 Commercial bureau, 76.  
 Commission on the Fine Arts, 15, 18, 24.  
 Committees, 25-6, 51-2, 53-4, 77.  
 Cook, Captain, 48.  
 Cope, C. W., 16.  
 Copying of pictures, 46.  
 Copyright, 17.  
 Copyright Act, 25.  
 "Cottage scenery," 31.  
 Courtauld, 31.  
 Courteus, 44.  
 Cox, D., 91.  
 Creswick, 39.  
 "Crisis," 66.  
 Cumberland, C., 2, 6.  
 Curtis, R., 11, 34, 54.  
 Dalgety, F. G., 13.  
 Darling, Sir C., 16.  
 Davies, D., 73.  
 "Deer stealers pursued by sleuth hounds," 60.  
 Demont, A., 70.  
 "Départ du Fiancé," 16.  
 "Departure of the Pilgrim Fathers," 16.  
 Dewey Decimal system, 80.  
 Diamond Jubilee Loan exhibition, 76.  
 Dicksee, F., 66.  
 Dobson, F. S., 32, 45, 73.  
 "Don Quixote," 70.  
 Dowden, M. F., 58, 61, 73, 74, biographical note, 117.  
 "Druidical monuments," 30.

- Duffy, Sir C. G., 15, 25, 37, 39, 85.  
Dunn, F., 52.  
"Dunstanborough Castle," 59.  
Dürer, 66.  
"Easterly breeze," 57.  
Eastlake, Sir C., 15, 16.  
Edinburgh, H.R.H. Duke of, 21.  
Edwards, E., 92.  
Edwards, Mrs., 92.  
Electric light, 49, 81.  
Ellery, R. L. J., 27, 46, 76.  
"England," 39.  
"English Summer Day," 68.  
"Entombment," 91.  
Eschke, 44.  
Etchings, 66, 68, 70.  
Ethnological collection, 80, 84.  
"Evening shadows, Otira Gorge," 66.  
Exhibition at Library buildings, 19.  
Exhibition of Australian art, London, 77.  
Exhibition of works of art, 23, 66.  
Exhibitions, 30, 31.  
Fagan, 64-6.  
"Faith," 67.  
"Feeding time," 73, 82.  
Fellows, T. H., 25.  
Felton, A., presents picture, 68 ; bequest, 87, 89, 90, 91, 92 ; portrait of, 92.  
"La Femme Couchée," 91.  
Fencing, 37.  
Fergusson and Mitchell, 71.  
"Fern gatherer," 15.  
"Fern Tree Gully," 7.  
"Ferry on the River Ninfa," 16.  
Fildes, L., 66.  
Fire, protection against, 35, 78, 80.  
Fire in laboratory, 58.  
"First Cloud," 57.  
"First meeting between Henry VIII. and Anne Boleyn," 40.  
"First snow in the Tyrolean Alps," 21.  
Firth, 38.  
"Fisherman's head," 91.  
Fitchett, W. H., 69.  
Fitzgerald, T. N., 48.  
Folingsby, G. F., 16, 39, 40, 45, 46, 53, 56, 64, 65 ; biographical note, 124-26.  
Folingsby, Mrs. 65.  
Foord, 27.  
Forster, J. 27, 81.  
Fox, E. P., 76, 84, 85.  
Francis, J. G., 25, 33, 51.  
Franks, Sir W., 74.  
"French artists in a Spanish posada," 15.  
Fulker, 27.  
Gagliardi, F., 52, 58, 61, 77.  
Gallot, G. M., 4.  
Gates, 34.  
Geological survey, 24, 29.  
Germany, Emperor of, donation to Library, 49.  
Gilbee, Dr., 13, 55, 84.  
Gilbert, A., 60, 91.  
Gilbert, J., 57.  
Gilbert, Sir J., 44.  
Gillen, F. J., 80, 83.  
"Golden Age," 74.  
Goodall, F., 21.  
Gould's "Birds," 4.  
Gow, 40, 84.  
Graham, J., 61.  
Graham, P., 57, 61.  
Graves, H. and Co., 76.  
Great Hall, 20, 22, 24, 33, 34, 36, 79.  
Greene, M., 59, 69.  
Grosvenor gallery international exhibition, 57.  
Gude, 59.  
Guerard, E. von, 7, 22, 26, 44.

- Guildhall loan exhibition, 81.  
 Guillaume, 5, 7, 14.  
 Hare, H. G., 92.  
 "Haidee," 91.  
 Hail storm in Melbourne, 83-4.  
 Halford, G. B., 27.  
 Hall, L. B., 66, 68, 86, 89, 90, 91.  
 Ham, C. J., 48, 65, 76.  
 Harper, A., 51, 53, 85.  
 "Haunt of ancient peace," 31.  
 Hearn, W. E., 56.  
 "Heart of the Coolins," 57.  
 Herbert, J. R., 27, 31, 33, 36, 38.  
 Herdman, R., 15.  
 Hering, 31.  
 Herkomer, H., 60, 64, 65, 66, 68.  
 Herring, J. F., 15.  
 Heysen, H., 92.  
 Higinbotham, G., 50.  
 Hodges, J., 6.  
 Hodges, Justice, 64.  
 Hoey, 27, 36.  
 Hopetoun, Countess of, 86.  
 Hopkins, G., 8.  
 "Horses bathing in the sea," 82.  
 Horsley, J. C., 66.  
 Hotham, Sir C., 3, 28.  
 Howitt, E., 61.  
 Hunt, H., 90, 92.  
 Illumination of buildings, 83.  
 "Importunate neighbour," 90.  
 Industrial and Technological  
   Museum, 23, 24, 27, 29, 30,  
   36, 50-51, 59, 62, 69, 76, 79,  
   81, 83, 87, 89.  
   *See also* Great Hall.  
 "In the fields," 70.  
 Inglis, 36.  
 Institution, Title of, 18.  
 Interchange of pictures, 72, 77.  
 Intercolonial Library Confer-  
   ence, 74-5.  
 Irving, M. H., 7, 30, 86.  
 Isabey, E., 90.  
 "Italian brigands," 34.  
 "James Watt's workroom," 59.  
 Johnson, E. B., 68.  
 "Josephine signing the act of  
   her divorcee," 59.  
 Joske, A., 86.  
 Keene, C., 91.  
 Kerr, J. M., 82, 86.  
 Kershaw, J. A., 82.  
 Kew, 10, 11.  
 Koekkoek, H., 59.  
 Koller, G., 16.  
 Laboratory, 58, 62  
 Lace, 88.  
 "Landing of Captain Cook," 85.  
 "Land's End," 59.  
 Langton, E., appointed Trustee,  
   35; elected Treasurer, 37;  
   elected Vice-President, 56;  
   visits England, 57; elected  
   President, 75; death, 91;  
   biographical note, 105-7.  
 Latrobe, C. J., 1, 4, 48, 78.  
 Latrobe gallery, 70.  
 Laurens, J. P., 91.  
 Layraud, 34.  
 Lectures, 27, 30, 46.  
 Leeper, A., 56, 73.  
 Lefebvre, 48.  
 Lending library, 47, 64-5, 68-9,  
   70, 74, 79-80, 85.  
 Leslie, C. R., 91.  
 "Letters from Victorian pion-  
   eers," 48, 78.  
 Librarian. *See* Tulk, Sheffield,  
   Bride, Dowden, Armstrong.  
 Librarian's quarters, 69.  
 Libraries Act, 53, 61, 87.  
 Library Association of Aus-  
   traliasia, 73, 74-5, 85-6.  
 "Light of the world," 92.  
 Linacre, A., 7, 13, 22.  
 Lindsay, Sir C., 57.  
 Linnell, 59.  
 "Little copse on the hill," 68.  
 Loan exhibition of books, 74, 86.

- Loch, Sir H., 54-5, 58, 60, 69.  
 Lockington, 62.  
 London International Exhibition, 33.  
 Long, E., 39.  
 Longstaff, J., 57, 67, 70, 73, 78, 84.  
 Loureiro, A., 84.  
 "Love and death," 57.  
 McAllan, J., 87.  
 McArthur, Major-General, 4.  
 McArthur, D. C., appointed Trustee, 1; elected Vice-President, 34; elected President, 42; resigns Presidentship, 48; death, 56; biographical note, 102-3.  
 McArthur, G., 87.  
 McArthur gallery, 36, 70.  
 MacBain, Sir J., 54, 68.  
 McCoy, Sir F., 27-9, 79; biographical note, 120-2.  
 McCubbin, 54, 64, 73, 82, 85, 86.  
 McCulloch, Sir J., 25, 48, 50, 56, 60, 62-3, 69, 91.  
 McCulloch, Lady, 91.  
 MacDougall, D., 40.  
 MacGregor, J., 35, 51.  
 Mackennal, B., 65, 81, 82-3.  
 MacMahon, Sir C., 32, 65.  
 MacPherson, J. A., 25, 33, 37, 40, 65.  
 Madden, Sir J., 74.  
 Manners-Sutton, Sir J. H. T., 20, 23.  
 "Marriage of St. Catherine," 23.  
 Ma her, J., 67, 69, 73, 91.  
 Maund, Dr., 16.  
 Medals, 63, 69.  
 Meissonier, 90.  
 Melba, Madame, 81.  
 Melbourne Centennial International Exhibition, 58.  
 Melbourne Hospital, 23, 27, 31.  
 Melbourne International Exhibition, 44.  
 Meldram, D. M., 80.  
 "Memories of the first Palm Sunday," 31.  
 Metcalfe, J., 3.  
 Meyerheim, 66.  
 Michie, Sir A., 15, 25, 26, 33, 35, 36.  
 Middleton, 64, 66.  
 Mineral collection in Exhibition Building, 79.  
 Mitchell, Sir W. H. F., 30, 51.  
 Mogford, J., 15.  
 Mollison, W. T., 15.  
 Montefiore, E., 25, 39.  
 "Moonrise," 73.  
 Moorhouse, Bishop, 64.  
 "Morning after 'Trafalgar,'" 59.  
 "Morning, Lake Omeo," 67.  
 Morris, E. E., 40, 51-2, 63, 75, 83, 84; biographical note, 107-8.  
 Morrish, 31.  
 "Moses bringing down the tables of the law," 33, 38.  
 Mueller, Baron von, 27.  
 Murphy, Sir F., 14, 37.  
 Murphy, J., 13.  
 Murray, C. F., 92.  
 Nanson, E. J., 40.  
 Napoleon III., 7.  
 National art gallery of New South Wales, 77.  
 National Gallery, 7, 8-9, 12; opening of, 14-15; transferred to site of Verdon gallery, 20; erection of picture galleries, 27, 31, 34, 35, 61, 62, 69; lighted by electricity, 49; opened at night, 49, 68, 70; opened on Sundays, 50-1; naming of galleries, 70; illustrated catalogue, 71; Felton bequest, 87-91.  
*See also* School of design, School of painting, School of applied art.

- National gallery annual art exhibition, 66-7.
- National Museum, Removal to Public Library, 6, 24, 28, 37, 79; early history of, 27; vote for extension, 59; erection of new buildings, 80, 83, 88, 92; opening of new, 81; building at University handed over to Government, 81; closed for re-arrangement, 81.
- "Nativity," 84.
- "Near Mannaton, Devon," 31.
- Neville, A., 45.
- Newbery, J. C., 24, 27, 53, 57, 64, 73, 75; biographical note, 123-4.
- Newspaper room, 35, 37, 45, 53, 59.
- "No Surrender," 40, 84.
- North, J. W., 68.
- Nozal, 67.
- Numbering of books, 44.
- Ocock, 40.
- Officer, G., 84.
- Officers, appointment of, 41-3, 44-5, 51, 62.
- "Okehampton castle," 91.
- O'Loughlen, Sir B., 46, 47, 91.
- Orchardson, 57.
- Ormond, F., 46.
- O'Shanassy, Sir J., 25, 48, 59.
- O'Shanassy, M., 59.
- Palmer, Sir J., 1, 3, 30.
- Paterson, H. W., 22, 23.
- Paterson, J. F., 82, 85, 86.
- Paterson Bros., 89.
- Pearson, C. H., 44, 46, 51, 69.
- Peele, J., 66.
- Pegram, 91.
- Pennell, J., 72, 90.
- Periodicals, 55.
- "Perseus arming," 91.
- Philadelphia centennial exhibition, 36.
- Phillip, J., 76.
- Phillott, 31.
- Philosophical institute, 6, 28-9.
- Picture gallery. *See* National gallery.
- Pissarro, 90.
- "Ploughman's breakfast," 90.
- Police cottages, 11, 36.
- Police court, protest against erection of, 81, 89.
- Portico, 25, 30.
- "Portrait of a gentleman," 65-6.
- "Poultry vendor," 15.
- Prahran, 10.
- Pratt, 59.
- Pre-historic implements, 74.
- President. *See* Barry, McArthur, Verdon, Langton, Turner.
- "Prière dans la chapelle," 90.
- "Proserpine," 92.
- Public Library, Establishment, 1; building, 2, 3, 6, 47, 48, 52-3, 78; foundation stone laid, 3; opened, 4; rules, 4; Act of Incorporation, 23, 25; re-organisation, 47-8; lighted by electricity, 49; inquiry desk, 55, 78, distribution of government publications, 55; card catalogue, 65; offices, 78; accession-books introduced, 81; erection of new building suggested, 89-90. *See also* Barry Hall, Lending Library, Newspaper Room, Queen's Reading Room.
- Public service act, 51-53, 62.
- Public service re-classification board, 82.
- Pnrchas, G., 75, 77.
- "Purple noon's transparent might," 75.
- "Quatre Bras," 52, 81.
- "Queen Esther," 39.
- Queen's Reading Room, 9, 83, 89.



- Quinn, J., 71, 84.  
 "Rachel going to the well," 21.  
 Rackham, A., 91.  
 Reay, W. T., 86.  
 Reed, J., 2, 6, 20, 62.  
 Reid, Rev. J., 71.  
 Rembrandt, 66.  
 Retrenchment, 67, 75, 77.  
 Ricards, J. R., 16.  
 "Right of Way," 66.  
 Rivière, 59, 60, 66.  
 Roberts, D., 72.  
 Rodin, 91.  
 "Roman holiday," 59.  
 "Rose of England," 16.  
 "Rosebud of England," 15.  
 Rossetti, 92.  
 "Rotterdam," 22.  
 Rotunda, 20, 35-37, 53, 59, 78, 80.  
 Royal academy, 82, 84.  
 Royal Anglo-Australian society  
     of artists, 70.  
 Rule, O. R., 39, 64, 68.  
 Rules and regulations, 25, 30,  
     32-3, 77.  
 Runting, 45.  
 Ruskin, 27, 30, 36.  
 Sailors' Home, 24.  
 "St. George and the dragon,"  
     58; companion statue, 65.  
 St. Kilda, 10.  
 "Salvation Army shelter," 68.  
 Sargood, Sir F., 76.  
 "Scene on the Hudson," 16.  
 "Scene on the ice at Stockholm," 16.  
 Schenck, 40.  
 Schendel, P. van, 15.  
 School of applied art, 75, 77.  
 School of design, rules, 21; fees  
     21; master in, 24, 26; exhi-  
     bitions, 35-6, 63; teacher of  
     technical drawing, 60.  
 School of painting, master in,  
     20, 26, 45; rules, 21: fees,  
     21; exhibitions, 35-6, 63,  
     66-7, 81.  
*See also Travelling scholarship.*  
 Sculpture, 78, 91.  
 "Sea Idylls," 68.  
 Secretary, 2, 26, 54.  
 "Seine à Saint Pierre, près Lou-  
     viers," 67.  
 Service, J., 49, 56.  
 Sharp, A. M., 88.  
 Sheffield, H., 6, 14, 34, 39-42;  
     biographical note, 114-15.  
 Simpson, G. G., 60.  
 "Sirens," 73.  
 Site for institution, 2, 3, 7, 11.  
 Sladen ministry, 22.  
 Smith, J., 15, 40, 58.  
 Smith, R. M., 76.  
 Smythe, L., 64.  
 Solomon islands, 84.  
 Sonntag, 16.  
 "Southwold," 92.  
 Souza-Pinto, J. J., 70.  
 Sowerby, 27.  
 Spencer, W. B., 73, 79, 83.  
 Stanfield, 59, 91.  
 Stanford, E. W., 85.  
 Stawell, Sir W., 1, 57, 60.  
 Stawell gallery, 20, 70.  
 Stewart, A., 54.  
 Stocktaking, 7, 12.  
 Streeton, A., 75.  
 Strong, H. A., 39, 51.  
 Sub-Librarian. *See* Sheffield,  
     Clarke, Brazier.  
 Sugden, Rev. E. H., 85.  
 Sullivan, E. J., 91.  
 Summers, C., 12, 13, 15, 39.  
 Sunday opening, 30, 49-51, 63,  
     88-9.  
 "Sunshine and shadow," 92.  
 Swan, J. M., 68.  
 Swain, 91.  
 Syme, D., 60.  
 Tadema, Alma, 56, 59, 62-3.  
 Tangye, 59.  
 Tappin, W. B., 90.  
 Technological commission, 22.

- Technological museum. *See* Industrial and technological museum.
- Telegraphy class, 59.
- Telephones, 82.
- Tennyson, Lord, 59.
- Theft of books, 86.
- Thomas, W. C., 91.
- Thompson, S., 45, 53.
- Thomson, A. T., 21, 23, 36-7, 39, 52, 56, 60, 62-3.
- Thoneman, 91.
- Times, The, 4.
- Title deeds, 11.
- Tomassi, de, 44.
- "Too late," 71.
- Townsend, 91.
- "Tranquil winter," 74.
- Travelling libraries, 8, 10, 20.
- Travelling scholarship, fund invested, 23; established, 56; awarded, 57, 63, 71, 75, 80, 85, 88, 92; gold medal for, 63; pictures painted under terms of, 73, 74, 84; outside students allowed to compete, 77.
- Treasurer, 30, 33, 37, 56, 58.
- Treeby, 48.
- Trustees, first, 1; first meeting, 2; number of, 19, 87; incorporated, 25; suggested number and powers of, 45, 53.
- Tschaggeny, E., 15.
- Tucker, A. L., 75, 85.
- Tucker, T. G., 76, 86.
- Tulk, A. H., appointed librarian, 5; proposal to send to England, 7; goes to England, 14; appointed to Fine Arts Commission, 15; obtained donations, 16, 17; copyright scheme, 17; report on visit to England, 18; historical narrative of visit of the Duke of Edinburgh, 21; death, 34; biographical note, 108-114.
- Turner, H. G., appointed Trustee, 51; elected Treasurer, 56; resigns Treasurership, 58; elected acting Vice-President, 83; elected Vice-President, 84; elected President, 91.
- Turner, J. M. W., 59, 91.
- Turnstiles, 30, 86.
- Ulrich, 27, 39.
- "Ulysses and the sirens," 66.
- Undesirable visitors, 87.
- Uniforms, 52.
- University of Melbourne, 3.
- Vale, W. M. K., 31, 32, 46, 73.
- Van Dyck, 23, 66.
- Varley, 91.
- Vasselot, M. de., 90.
- Verdon, Sir G., appointed to Fine Arts Commission, 15; introduces bill to incorporate institution, 21; asked to select pictures, 27; appointed Trustee, 32; elected Treasurer, 33; elected Vice-President, 42; elected President, 48; visits Europe, 61-3; asked to collect specimens of ceramic art, 72; death, 75; biographical note, 104-5.
- Verdon gallery, 20, 71.
- Vibert, G. J., 15.
- Vice-President.  
*See* Michie, McArthur, Verdon, McCulloch, Langton, Morris, Turner, Wrixon.
- Victoria, H.M. Queen, 60, 65, 68, 70, 76.
- Victorian artists' association, 59, 61, 73, 78, 85.
- Victorian Gallery of Art, 27.
- "Victory of faith," 92.
- Vièrge, 91.
- Villa Albani, 17.

- "Vintage festival," 59.  
 "Vision of St. Stanislaus," 84.  
 Waite, J. C., 92,  
 Walcott, R. H., 68, 73, 82.  
 Walker, F., 66.  
 Wallen, R., 60, 71.  
 Wallis, T., 63-4, 66.  
 Ward, 59.  
 Wardell, W. W., 15.  
 Washfold, E., 4, 5, 7.  
 Watchmen, 82.  
 "Watergate Bay," 15.  
 Waterhouse, J. W., 66.  
 Watson, T. J., 31.  
 Watts, G. F., 57, 59.  
 Way, A. S., 56, 85.  
 Webb, J., 22.  
 Weber, 21.  
 Weigall, T., 15.  
 Welch, Lucy E. K., 82.  
 "Welcome Shade," 57.  
 Were, 40.  
 Westminster, Duke of, 59.  
 "Wheat," 59.  
 Whistler, 68.  
 Wilkinson, F., 15.  
 Williams, P., 16.  
 Wilson, H., 90.  
 Wilson, W. P., 15, 27.  
 "Winter evening," 82.  
 Withers, W., 73, 74.  
 Woolcott, R. R., 13.  
 Working men's college, 46, 76.  
 Wrixon, Sir H., 85, 91.  
 Wynfield, 44.  
 Wyon, 63.  
 "Young bull and herdsman,"  
     58.  
 Zeal, Sir W. A., 72.







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